ASEAN'S BIG GUNS Asean leaders join hands for a photo op session at Thursday's opening ceremony of the 17th Asean Summit in Hanoi. Shown from left are Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, Burmese Prime Minister Thein Sein, Philippine President Benigno Aquino, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Hatta Rajasa, Brunei Sultan Haseanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, and Laotian Prime Minister Bouasone Bupharath. AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, October 29, 2010 ▲ A Vol. 25 | No. 323

Aquino urges Burma to free Suu Kyi now

By Leila B. Salaverria

HANOI—President Aquino yesterday pushed for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi but expressed disappointment that Prime Minister Thein Sein did not give a commitment during their bilateral talks that the Burmese democracy icon would be freed any time soon.

Mr. Aquino told Thein Sein the Philippines was joining calls from the international community for the immediate release of Suu Kyi, according to presidential communications group Secretary Ricky Carandang.

Thein Sein's reply contained no
AQUINO: A10

APO frat forms legal team to defend brod

NBI files attempted murder charges vs bomb suspect

KENYAN'S BIG HAYDEN A Kenyan runner negotiates the ice-wall of Mayon Volcano during the 21-km Mayon Trail Run held on Sunday. The trail was dominated by the Kenyans who finished 1-2-3—to expand to become one of the country's most grueling and toughest. [illegible]

By Christian V. Esguerra and Nikko Dizon

THE INFLUENTIAL Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity is not taking chances with the criminal charges filed yesterday against one of its members in connection with the explosion that injured 47 people on the last day of the bar examinations on Sept. 26.

The frat has organized a team of lawyers to defend 27-year-old Anthony Nepomuceno, a call center agent who is suspected of being behind the grenade attack in front of De La Salle University on Taft Avenue in Manila.

The five-man legal team will be headed by Jeffrey Zasate, an expert in litigation, according to APO member Silvestre Bello III, a justice secretary in the Arroyo Cabinet who, along with frat "head" Vice President Jejomar Binay, had earlier vouched for Nepomuceno's innocence.

The National Bureau of Investigation charged Nepomuceno with multiple frustrated and attempted murder before the Department of Justice (DOJ).

NBI Director Magtanggol Gatdula told the Inquirer that Nepomuceno had been positively identified by two of 17 witnesses to the explosion.

Gatdula said the witnesses were credible and had expressed no interest in the P1.2-million reward offered by authorities for information that would lead to the identification of the bomber.
APO: A10

RP, Thailand agree to tackle stronger peso

By Leila B. Salaverria

HANOI—The Philippines and Thailand will work together to address concerns about their strengthening currencies, a major concern of their exporters.

The agreement was reached during bilateral talks between President Aquino and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on Thursday morning, before the opening of the 17th Asean
BP: A10

WHAT'S INSIDE

SPORTS / A32
Manny Pacquiao takes nth break

WORLD / A30
Indonesia counts costs, helps victims after dual disasters

BUSINESS / B2-4
Movie houses winning war vs film pirates

STOCK MARKET QUARTERLY / B11-B15
Bull market up close in quarterly report

Comelec apologizes for delays in elections

By Philip C. Tubeza and TJ Burgonio

WE ARE sorry and that comes from the heart.

Saying holding elections is no picnic, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday apologized to the public for the delays and glitches that marred the recent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said an apology was in order because it was clear that delays happened. However, he also pointed out that 96 percent of the country's 42,025 barangays had already proclaimed the winners
COMELEC: A20

Binay hit for clearing suspect; it's his opinion, says Palace

VICE PRESIDENT Jejomar Binay's avowed belief in the claim of innocence of a fraternity brother implicated in the Sept. 26 grenade attack has elicited disapproval from his fellow lawyers in Congress.

"I believe his clearing [of Anthony Nepomuceno] is premature," Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said yesterday at the Serye press forum in Quezon City.

Rodriguez said Binay, as "a high official of government," should have allowed the Department of Justice (DOJ) and National Bureau of Investigation "to make a case buildup." He said he himself would not say that Nepomuceno was guilty only that "it would be premature to say that a person is innocent."

In a statement issued yesterday by his office, Binay said that despite his belief in
BINAY: A10

Newsman quotes Neri: GMA pressured me on NBN deal

By Kristine L. Alave

"I WAS pressured by the President," a newspaper columnist yesterday said quoting Romulo Neri who was tasked with evaluating the National Broadband Network project when he headed the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

Neri allegedly told Star columnist Jarius Bondoc that former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband were involved in pushing for the $329-million NBN deal with a Chinese firm.

Bondoc recounted his discussions of the deal with Neri, whom he identified as his "anonymous source" in the se-
COLUMNIST: A20

Pag-Ibig sets economic sabotage raps vs Delfin Lee

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—State-run Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) has prepared a syndicated estafa case against real estate developer Delfin Lee in connection with his Xevera housing projects in Pampanga that received billions of pesos from the agency purely using spurious Pag-Ibig members.

Syndicated estafa, which constitutes economic sabotage, is a nonbailable offense.

The criminal case is scheduled
P&B-IBIG: A3

It's now RIP for 'RP'

By Jerome Aning

OFFICIALLY, it is now Rest in Peace (RIP) for "RP"—the initials that refer to the Republic of the Philippines.

Henceforth, the country will now be referred to by the Department of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic outposts abroad as "PH" or "PHL," the DFA said in a statement yesterday.

This is in line with the Philippine membership with the International Organization for Standardization
RP'S NOW: A2

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

6/42

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2 LINE	16	16
3 LINE	9	15

SUERTRES

1 LINE	7	8
2 LINE	9	0
3 LINE	1	3

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SUPER LOTTO 6/49

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P16,000,000.00

Human trafficking suspect nabbed

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday said it appears at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Clark, Pampanga, have arrested a suspected human trafficker who tried to escort six undocumented overseas Filipino workers bound for Lebanon.

Immigration officer-in-charge Reynaldo Lachenas, in a statement, said the six female would-be domestic helpers were intercepted at the DMIA departure area on Oct. 22 as they were about to board a Cebu Pacific flight to Hong Kong.

The suspected syndicate leader was identified as Martha Mendoza, a resident of Angeles City, who was supposed to accompany the six "bogus workers" to Beirut city. The victims' names were not divulged.

Lawyer Carlos Tagudinog, FA, DMIA head supervisor, said the voucher workers claimed to be students of a local computer school and were invited to attend an on-the-job training in Hong Kong.

However, immigration agents found that they were not students of the school and that there was no invitation for them to attend the training.

Webb asks SC to acquit him

By Nikko Dizon

LAWYERS for convicted rapist Hubert Webb yesterday asked the Supreme Court to acquit him and release him from the Novo Bilibid Prison where he has been serving a life sentence for the post 10 years for the 1991 Vizconde rape and murder case.

Webb's constitutional right to due process was violated when the state, "through negligence or willful suppression, failed to produce the crime specimen that could have proven [his] innocence," the lawyers argued.

The motion was filed at the high court yesterday just a day after the high tribunal reversed itself and ruled against Webb's motion that a DNA test be conducted on semen taken from the body of victim Carmela Vizconde, 19 years after the crime.

No DNA testing

In its Oct. 19 decision, released on Wednesday, the high court said the DNA testing could no longer be done as the National Bureau of Investigation had declared that it "could no longer produce" the semen sample taken from the cadaver.

It was a reversal of a high court ruling last April 20 granting Webb's petition for the court to order the DNA test to compare the semen taken from the victim to that of Webb's.

The ruling paved the way for a final conviction of the two-decade-old rape-murder case, which came to be known as the Vizconde massacre.

In their motion yesterday, Webb's lawyers said the loss of the semen sample recovered from the cadaver of Carmela Vizconde could have established Webb's innocence, "as the test results would show whether the sperm found" on the victim "exclusively has or not."

"In the present case, the loss or suppression by the prosecution of the semen specimen, denied appellant Webb his right to avail of the latest DNA technology and prove his innocence. This is contrary to the principles of justice and is a denial of constitutional right to due process, which entitles him to an acquittal," the lawyers said.

Webb, a son of former senator and boxer Freddie Webb, and six others were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Estrella Vizconde, 47, and her daughters Jennifer, 7, and the rape-slay of another daughter, Carmela, 18.

A seventh convict, policeman Gerardo Biong, was sentenced to 21 to 12 years in prison as an accessory to the crime.

Spellbinding

The case held the nation spellbound for years because of the horrific treatment of the victims and the wealth and prominence of the suspects who were rumored to be beyond the reach of the law.

The dead bodies of Estrellita and her two daughters were discovered in their 89 Maryann, Bombaan, residence on the morning of June 30, 1991.

Carmela was raped but as being stabbed 17 times. Estrellita sustained 13 stab wounds and Jennifer 19 wounds.

In 1995, four years after the crime, a confessed drug addict, Jessica Alfaro, surfaced and claimed to have been an eyewitness to the crime. Five scions of prominent families were charged with homicide and rape.

In January 2000, then Parañaque Judge Amelita Tolentino convicted Webb, Antonio Lejano, a son of actress Dida de Leon, Michael Gatchalian and Miguel Rodriguez, one of prominent lawyer, Peter Estrada, a son of a wealthy businessman, and Hospicio Pe-tiandra, the son of a congressman.

Two other accused—Jose Eliser and Artemio Ventura—have remained at large.

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Palace hails judge for deferring Trillanes verdict

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday lauded Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Oscar Pimentel for his postponement of the promulgation of the coup d'etat charges filed against Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and other members of the Magdalo Group that figured in the Oakwood Mutiny in 2003.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said the Aquino administration appreciates and welcomes Pimentel's act of judicial courtesy toward a separate branch of government that is waiting for congressional concurrence on President Aquino's amnesty for the Magdalo members.

"The defendants' plea based on judicial courtesy as well. Of course, we welcome that because the Palace is waiting concurrence from Congress," Valte said during yesterday's press briefing in Malacañang.

Pimentel initially scheduled the promulgation of his judgment on the Magdalo members on Oct. 28. His order reset the promulgation to Dec. 16.

"After a careful examination and evaluation of the arguments of both parties, prudence dictates that this court extends judicial courtesy to its coequal branches of government, which are the executive and legislative departments, and in the meantime postpone the promulgation," Pimentel said.

Mr. Aquino earlier said that he granted amnesty to the Magdalo members but the congressional recess got in the way of the expected ratification by both the Senate and the House of the amnesty proclamation.

It's now RIP for 'RP'; gov't prefers 'PH' or 'PHL'

NO WAY OR NONCOMMITTAL. Burma's Foreign Minister Maye Win (at right) talks with Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo who pressured him to release Aung San Suu Kyi along with other Asean foreign ministers. Romulo said his Burmese counterpart was noncommittal. Asean foreign ministers held a meeting in preparation for the Asean summit. (AFP)

Front page A1

2002, which has developed a system of codes assigning two-letter and three-letter codes to member countries, the UNA said.

In the order dated Oct. 29, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo directed the country's 67 embassies, 23 consulates general and four permanent missions abroad to wear-use the initials PH or PHL.

"The long-standing usage of the initials 'RP' is not in accordance with ISO codes, leading to ambiguous initials that can also refer to other countries," Romulo said.

New names in order?

Romulo's order did not say if the names of tradition and government bodies using the initials "RP" would have to be renamed, such as the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement and the GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) peace panels in charge with negotiating settlements with communist and Moro separatist rebels.

The ISO codes "PH" and "PHL" are used in the Philippines and abroad in airline ticketing, passport issuances, currencies and internationally tracked shares of stocks, among others.

In 1992, the two-letter "PH" code began to be used on the Internet as a website address for the Philippines.

Foreigners confused

Adherence to ISO standards may provide technological, economic and other benefits. For businesses, widespread adoption of international standards means suppliers can develop and offer products and services meeting specifications that have wide international acceptance in their sectors.

A DFA official once assigned in Europe and in the department's protocol section said the use abroad of the initials RP had proved confusing for foreigners because there are other republican states whose official names begin with a "P" as well as other places and for abbreviations that use the initials RP.

These are the Republic of Poland (Rzeczpospolita Polska), the Portuguese Republic (República Portuguesa), and the republics of Panama, Paraguay and Peru, said the official, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Rhineland-Palatinate

In Europe, he added, "RP" is also used as initials for Rheinland-Pfalz, one of the states of Germany, and the Residence Palace, a building complex in Brussels, Belgium, that serves as the seat of the Council of the European Union and the European Council.

"RP" is also used to refer to the Republika Srpska, politically the Serbian Party (Reformirana Partija), in Turkey.

What about 'PH'

Not that it would create no formidable problems, but the initial PH sounds like the scientific term "pH," which is the measure of the acidity of a solution.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the ISO is an international standard-setting body composed of representatives from various national standards organizations. Founded in 1947, it promulgates worldwide proprietary industrial and commercial standards.

The Philippines is represented in the organization by the Bureau of Product Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry.

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THE ST. JUDE National Shrine along J.P. Laurel Street beside Malacañang Palace.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

St. Jude now a nat'l shrine

THE ST. JUDE archdiocesan shrine, now a national shrine, yesterday celebrated its 96th founding anniversary on J.P. Laurel Street in San Miguel, Manila.

The celebration coincided with the feast of St. Jude Thaddeus, a relative of Jesus Christ and apostle who together with Apostle Simon the Zealot worked in Egypt and Mesopotamia. The two disciples were martyred in Persia (modern-day Iran).

The formal approval of the national status of St. Jude Thaddeus was made by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) during its 100th plenary assembly on Jan. 25.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales was the main celebrant of the Mass at 5 p.m. yesterday, with Bishops Nicanor Cruptrez, Leopoldo Jaucian, Bienvenido Lumbre, Antonio Tuzon and Florentino Cinense as concelebrating priests.

Fr. Mario Lanzafame, SVD, provincial superior of the Society of the Divine Word, Central Province and parish priest Fr. Rolando Aquino, SVD, led the clergy of the Manila Archdiocese and SVD priests in the Mass.

The St. Jude Shrine began as a Chinese personal parish founded in 1954.

Pag-Ibig . . .

Front page A1

to be filed in the Department of Justice today, according to a Pag-Ibig Fund insider who, while confirming the legal action, did not want to be named for lack of authority to talk to reporters.

Pag-Ibig has gathered evidence against Lee, founder and president of Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp., involving "irregularities," the source said.

The case is set to be filed at the instance of Vice President Jejomar Binay who, as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), ordered an investigation of spurious buyers of house and lot purchased by Lee's Globe Asiatique in Seven Brooks and Seven Residences.

The buyers were covered by the Direct Pitching Groups (DPG) program Globe Asiatique pioneered for Pag-Ibig.

The DPG program began under the term of former Vice President Noli de Castro, who served as concurrent chair of the Pag-Ibig board of trustees and HUDCC.

Globe Asiatique took on four projects worth P6.552 billion for 8,973 accounts from March 2009 to May 2010, documents showed.

Pag-Ibig, according to the documents, broke its own rules, including narrowly requirements, to hasten the release of loans to buyers who then assigned the loan proceeds to Globe Asiatique as payments for the housing units.

Lee has denied wrongdoing in the Seven projects.

Filinvest Realty blacklisted

Pag-Ibig has blacklisted Globe Asiatique for its failure to buy back 1,755 accounts worth P1.2 billion and avoid monthly amortization payments.

Lee said he could not immediately pay the amount, indicating he could not fulfill the five-year buyback guarantee he had committed to apply on almost 9,000 Seven homes with foreclosure worth about P7 billion.

Pag-Ibig also blacklisted Filinvest Realty, a joint line of Globe Asiatique, when its director of the spurious scheme was confirmed in St. Monique Palms housing project in Binangonan, Rizal.

Before a Senate investigating panel, Pag-Ibig officials said Globe Asiatique paid for the monthly amortization of buyers, through a collection servicing agreement, to cover the spurious members.

The unqualified Pag-Ibig members who were made to sign affidavit loan documents were called "special buyers."

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2 tech-voc schools face closure; 6 others probed

By Tara Quintundo

TWO TECHNICAL training schools in Metro Manila are facing closure for operating without accreditation, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) said yesterday.

Six other Metro tech-voc schools are under investigation for substandard courses and trainers following a compliance audit, an annual government check of private tech-voc institutions, according to Tesda Director General Joel Villanueva.

"The two schools are not just non-compliant with our training regulations or certificate program requisitions. These two schools should not have been operating in the first place. They are not authorized," Villanueva told reporters yesterday.

Villanueva said the training centers run courses commonly offered in tech-voc institutions, among them electronics, computer science, cosmetology, and refrigerator and air-conditioner repair.

The two schools would even face criminal charges for charging fees for training courses not screened and accredited by the government, Villanueva said.

He said students enrolled in these schools may themselves file charges of estafa against the school management.

Villanueva said he would not release the names of the two schools until after the investigation is completed.

One of the aspects being probed is the local government or government-involved, to see if the schools had been issued a business permit, enabling them to operate without Tesda approval.

The Tesda investigation was spurred by complaints from students.

Villanueva said the training centers may have slipped through Tesda's regular audit checks.

"Sometimes, after they pass, we learn that they just borrowed the equipment and trainers just for the audit. We (have been) flooded with so many complaints," he said.

The six other schools being investigated have substandard facilities, equipment, said Villanueva. Most of their graduates fail to find employment after graduation, he said.

The schools will have to step up and improve their programs or they will be ordered to stop operations, he said.

"If they comply, there's no problem. If not, we will issue a cease and desist order," he said.

Villanueva believes there could be more such non-compliant schools operating in other parts of the country.

Gov't lifts ban on deployment of au pairs to Europe homes

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER 13 YEARS, the government has finally lifted the ban on the deployment of au pairs to selected European countries, the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) said yesterday.

POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin Manalili said the POEA Governing Board has issued three separate resolutions allowing the deployment of au pairs to Switzerland, Norway and Denmark.

She said the board lifted the ban after these countries guaranteed protection for them and agreed to observe the requirements of the Philippine government on the deployment of au pairs.

Manalili said the Department of Foreign Affairs imposed a ban on the deployment of Filipina au pairs to Europe in 1997 because of the reported maltreatment of au pairs such as unfair compensation, excessive working hours, discrimination and sexual assault.

An au pair is a French term which means "on par" or "equal to," denoting living on an equal basis in a reciprocal, caring relationship with the host family and the children, Manalili said.

She said that, under the POEA guidelines, a "Filipino au pair should be between 18 and 26 years old, unmarried and without any children, and placed under a cultural exchange agreement with the host family for a maximum stay of two years for the purpose of immersion in cultural and language learning."

During the employment, the au pair should be enrolled in a school to learn the language of the host country and shall live with the host family and removed on an equal basis with the members of the family, Manalili said.

"The Filipino au pair should be given pocket money and share in child care or light household chores and other responsibilities previously agreed upon in a contract between the au pair and the host family," she added.

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RICE CROP losses from Typhoon "Juan" may not be as severe as initially estimated, making additional rice imports this year unlikely.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala told Reuters yesterday that any impact on the country's staple food for the rest of the year would be to augment next year's supply, with the government likely to make a decision on the volume and timing of its next purchases in November or early December.

He said the impact is for 2011 may reach "more or less" 1 million tonnes, significantly lower than the record 2.45 million tonnes bought this year. The Philippine is the world's biggest rice buyer.

"There's a chance of recovery for about 35 to 40 percent of what has been damaged," Alcala said. "I have issued a memorandum (for regional officials) to double check the figures."

Alcala's comments came before his department raised the unrolled rice damage estimate from Typhoon Juan, which struck the northern Philippines last week, to 525,013 tonnes worth

ALCALA

10.03 billion pesos, based on an assessment report as of Oct 28.

That is more than 54,000 tonnes, or about 12 percent, higher than an estimate made two days earlier.

But the latest report said only 2.1 percent of the total affected rice farms, covering 420,139 hectares were completely damaged, with the government hopeful (but the rest of the rice crops could still be rescued).

Without any recovery, the Philippines could lose about 7.5 percent of its forecast output of about 7 million tonnes of unmilled rice in its fourth quarter harvest crop.

The export and crop damage reported by local government officials was subject to further verification.

Alcala said local supply of the grain remained ample, citing recent harvests and stockpiles at the warehouses of state food agency National Food Authority.

"Definitely, that year we're 100 percent safe. There's no need to worry," he said. "Definitely we will import, but that's for next year."

The government will decide on the volume and timing of 2011 imports in November or early December, Alcala said, adding it was difficult to say whether any purchases will be made before the year ends.

The agriculture department also said 26,986 tonnes of corn had been lost from forecast output of 1.6 million tonnes in the fourth quarter, scaling down its estimate from a fan of 30,370 tonnes as of Oct. 26. Reuters

SK abolition roils Senate

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SENATORS ARE sharply divided on whether to abolish or strengthen the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) following the low turnout of voters in the recently-concluded youth polls.

Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile and Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri said that the SK should be abolished due to the obvious lack of interest of teenagers in local politics.

Instead, Enrile and Zubiri proposed that a youth representative be elected among the barangay council by raising the number of councilors from 7 to 8.

"It is time to rethink about barangay and SK elections because to allow participation that wide, it will create a greater problem in the country in terms of law and order," Enrile said.

Senators Alfredo Delos Santiago and Francis Escudero are pushing for the retention of the youth councils and are even proposing bills to further fine-tune their participation in the political system.

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'LOOKING AROUND'

Chinese firm eyeing Luisita deal

By Kristine L. Alave

DESPITE a pending case at the Supreme Court questioning the legality of its stock distribution option, the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) has started "exploratory" talks with a major Chinese firm to supply the former with sugar cane.

HLI lawyer Vigor Mendoza has confirmed that the Wuhaku Group, China's largest milkfish manufacturer, has expressed interest in outsourcing its sugar supply from the Tarlac plantation.

But he said nothing has been firmed up yet.

Up in the air

"It's still up in the air, they were just looking around," he said in a phone interview, stressing that the Chinese company and HLI have not discussed any figures yet.

The 6,500-hectare sugar estate, which is owned by the extended family of President Aquino, is locked in a legal dispute with farm workers who are claiming ownership of much of the plantation under the land reform program.

HLI has filed an injunction against a directive from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) that ordered the distribution of the sugarcane plantation to its workers.

The DAR has ruled that the stock distribution arrangement in lieu of land distribution did not improve the living conditions of the hacienda's 6,000 workers, contrary to the vision of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Supply deal

But trade Undersecretary Cristino Pardilla said the talks with the Chinese firm did not include the land involved in the dispute.

The government is pushing for a deal with the Chinese to source sugar from the country not just from Luisita. Officials said the deal could be worth billions of pesos.

According to Pardilla, HLI officials led by chief operating officer Fernando Cinco met with the Enchiel group, which manages another plantation in Pampanga, last with Wuhaku executives last week.

"We're the ones originating this project. They are very interested in sugar plantations," Pardilla said.

Pardilla said plantations in Tarlac and Pampanga have agreed to submit feasibility studies to the Chinese firm.

Mendoza stressed that any decision on the project will have to await the Supreme Court ruling.

Complication

Meanwhile, the news that the company is preparing to return to operation has enraged representatives of the farmworkers. Lawyers of the peasant groups said the development will add another layer of complications to the case.

Jobert Pahilga, spokesperson of Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid ng Hacienda Luisita (Ambala), said the talks with the Chinese company "shows that HLI has no regard of court processes. The case is pending before SC, but it already expects a favorable ruling from the court," he said.

Jenny Carranza, campaign coordinator of a group allied with Farm Luisita, another HLI union, said the company should let the court finish the case before moving to disrupt business opportunities of the magistrate.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday October 29, 2010
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Phil 1:1-11
Gospel: Lk 14:1-6

One Sabbath Jesus had gone to eat a meal in the house of a leading Pharisee, and he was carefully watched. In front of him was a man suffering from dropsy, so Jesus asked the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" But no one answered. Jesus then took the man, healed him and sent him away. And he addressed them, "If your lamb or your ox falls down a well on a Sabbath day, who among you doesn't hurry to pull it out?" And they could see no answer.

Commentary:

"Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath or not?"

No law is really absolute if keeping the law itself obstructs a society from doing good.

Then, we read and the Law above the law.

We must ask whether the law we have created is open to the good that must be done despite it.

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APO frat forms legal team to defend brod

From page A1

"[The witnesses] never even talked about [the reward]. They are the suspect. They saw the victims of the blast and sympathized with them. They were there and simply disclosed to us what they knew," Candela said.

He said a composite sketch based on witnesses' descriptions and information from other witnesses including bicycle drivers enabled SIM personnel to track down Nepomuceno at his hometown in Marinduque and at his current address in Bambinar City.

10 complainants

The SIM, along with one of the witnesses, arrived to fall from at the DOJ office to file the charges against Nepomuceno.

The charge sheet includes a number of John Does. According to SIM spokesperson Cecilio Zamora Jr., the bureau is identifying at least seven other people involved in the explosion.

There are 10 complainants — Jeffrey Hilomen, Emelmarie Dela Sa, Phillip Edwin de Ola, Inno Muhammad Shihal Sangaraman, Rainier Anthony Millanes, Kenneth Gonzalga, Ma. Antonina Raissa Dizon Laurel, Sheldine Estrellas Navarro, Mrs. Estela Manlapaz and Diane Hazel Cuizon.

Limited, a law student, lost her two legs as a result of the grenade attack.

A DOJ prosecutor is to schedule a preliminary investigation to determine probable cause.

Nepomuceno is not under any court's custody and will be taken in only after a court issues a warrant for his arrest, Zamora said.

He said the filing of charges against Nepomuceno had effectively cleared Joel Cecilio Lanaga of San Jose Recoletos in Cebu of liability in the grenade attack.

Lanaga was initially identified by police as a suspect.

Rill in the evidence?

On the phone yesterday with the inquirer, Bello said Nepomuceno had decided to him and other senior APO members involvement in the explosion, and that the bar decided to take up his legal defense on the basis of that denial.

Bello Bello and Binay accompanied Nepomuceno on Wednesday to the SIM office supposedly because he wanted to clear his name.

But Bello, a former chief prosecutor in Pasay City and a former chief of the Commission on Elections Law Department, said he did not know what Nepomuceno was going to say.

"We are not clearing him. We are not prejudging the case. No one is above the law. If he is guilty, he should answer for the consequences of the criminal act."

'Tell the truth'

Bello said Nepomuceno managed to reach him through their fee "break."

He said a meeting of less than an hour took place on Tuesday in Makati City. Acting which a number Nepomuceno claimed himself as the victim.

"Before we brought him to the DOJ, we ... told him, 'We are willing to help, but you have to tell us the truth. But if you had anything to do with it, the law will take its course," Bello said.

It was after the meeting in Makati that Bello and Binay decided to escort Nepomuceno to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to answer the allegations.

"We thought it best for him to present himself and clear himself," Bello said.

Eyewitnesses' account

Zamora was confident of Nepomuceno's guilt.

"We have witnesses that say it was he who threw the grenade. We believe we have a strong case against him," Zamora said.

He said a witness had absolutely no doubt in picking out Nepomuceno in a police lineup. "Walang duda-duda, nilapitan niya agad."

Zamora also said witnesses saw Nepomuceno's attempt to run away after throwing the fragmentation grenade at a crowd of mostly law students taking part in the traditional street revelry marking the final day of the bar examinations.

He said that apart from eyewitness accounts, there was "supporting evidence" that he could not yet reveal.

"There were things that happened before [the explosion] that would prove that it was premeditated," he said.

But Bello said Nepomuceno, who reportedly quit his call center job after SIM agents showed up at his parents' house in Marinduque, had consistently denied responsibility for the explosion and even feared for his safety.

Bello said Nepomuceno needed help, especially legal assistance, considering that he no longer had a job and "had no money."

Nepomuceno's parents are a tricycle driver and a public school teacher, Bello said.

Continuing inquiry

Candela said the NBI was still investigating the stories behind the grenade attack.

"We will discover the real motives in the course of the continuing investigation, but witnesses have identified Nepomuceno as the grenade thrower, and they have given their sworn statements which are used as basis to charge him," Candela said.

Zamora said the bureau was "not ruling out the fact that another 120 persons."

"That could be, but we are not yet sure. We are charging Nepomuceno because of his individual act and not because he is part of any formation. We still don't know yet if someone else is behind this. The investigation on the matter is continuing," Zamora said.

Binay's opinion

Asked about the Vice President's statement on Wednesday virtually exonerating Nepomuceno, Zamora replied in Filipino: "That is his opinion and are subject to that."

He said "what was important" was that people witnessed Nepomuceno in the act of throwing the grenade.

Explaining the charges filed against Nepomuceno, Zamora said using a "lethal" explosive like a grenade was tantamount to intending to kill, and not just injure, people. With a report from Jeannette I. Andrade

Lawmaker bats for decentralization of bar examinations

By TJ Burgonio

TO PREVENT overcrowding in one venue and preclude unruly incidents, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez has proposed the decentralization of the bar examinations.

Rodriguez yesterday said he had filed Resolution No. 537 calling on the Supreme Court to conduct the bar exams in Mindanao for examinees in Luzon, in Cebu for examinees in the Visayas and in Cagayan de Oro for examinees in Mindanao.

An estimated 60,000 people converge every September on the Ateneo de Manila University campus on Taft Avenue in Manila for the bar exams, with entire families, members of the family and of fraternities/sororities accompanying the examinees, Rodriguez observed.

"It's really a (chance) for some unscrupulous people and criminal elements to infiltrate and throw a bomb," he told the Inquirer press forum.

Rodriguez cited the Sept. 25 grenade explosion that injured 17 people as one reason why the need to decentralize the bar exams.

He pointed out that next year, the multiple-choice exams were supposed to draw an even bigger number of law graduates and their supporters.

"If you have that kind of a situation and we're again in a jam-packed and overcrowded venue, it would be very dangerous," he said.

Savings

Rodriguez said decentralizing the bar exams would result in savings of money and time.

"It's very expensive for [previous... bar] examinees] to come to Manila for a review from April to September. That's a good six months, and you can just see the expenses. Students from families still continue to fund the review. Dorm are tens. There are tens of farmers. They come here in Manila, they pay their board and lodging," he said.

If his proposal is approved, the bar exams in Metro Manila should be held in a large hall, say SM Corporation Estate in Mall City, to accommodate the large number of examinees, according to Rodriguez.

And before, big screens may be used to project exam questions, he said, adding that it would be "a paperless examination."

To avoid unruly chaotic situations, the Supreme Court should consider three venues, said Rodriguez, whose resolution was coauthored by his brother, Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. of the party-list group Abante Mindanao Inc.

Binay hit for clearing suspect; it's his opinion, says Palace

From page A1

Nepomuceno's innocence, he was leaving the former self-center signed's silence to the DOJ.

The statement partly read: "The Vice President reiterates his statement to media that the matter is now in the hands of the proper authorities. He has made it clear that the perpetrators of the bombing—regardless of affiliation—should be charged appropriately.

"As a lawyer, he upholds the principle of due process and that the courts will have the last word on the guilt or innocence of the accused."

"[The accumulation of responsibility for the grenade attack is] not just coming out of nowhere. So many witnesses were interviewed," Rodriguez, a former dean of San Sebastian College of Law, pointed out.

On Wednesday, Binay said he had had "a hard-to-bear talk" with Nepomuceno.

"We believed him when he said that the accusations against him were not true," Binay told reporters shortly after running Nepomuceno to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and NBI Director Magtanggol Gatdula.

Binay also said that "according to our questioning, I think he had nothing to do with it."

Improper

Bello Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., chair of the House committee on justice, warned about the ramifications of Binay's remarks.

"It is not proper, and it might also influence the [prejudicial and judicial proceedings. Any suspect should go through the normal process of investigation irrespective of political connections," Tupas said.

In a separate interview, Davao Rep. Isidro Ungab Jr., said Binay as well as former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III might have jumped the gun on the DOJ.

Barzaga said it was not part of the Vice President's job description to pass judgment of guilt or innocence on any suspect, much less a fellow member of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) fraternity.

"Let us bear first the testimony of the witnesses and look at the other evidence before we decide on any conclusion regarding the innocence or guilt of any person," he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares did not question Binay's motive, but mentioned the DOJ against being influenced by his remarks.

"Binay expressed his personal opinion. It should not count in clearing [Nepomuceno] since the DOJ will have to conduct its investigation independently," Colmenares said, adding:

"As a general rule, the suspect is presumed innocent, so Binay's statement is taken in that context and should not influence a lot, especially since the accused is his (the) friend."

De Lima's request

According to the Binay statement, he accompanied Nepomuceno to the NBI on Wednesday at Justice Secretary De Lima's request.

Rodriguez headed De Lima and Gatdula for Nepomuceno's voluntary surrender, and said he strongly believed that they would not allow a whitewash of the investigation.

"For a long time, we didn't have a primary suspect. Now we have one. He has already surrendered or given himself up to the authorities. I would urge that the investigation go fast so that the perpetrators of this heinous crime will be brought to the bar of justice," the congressman said.

Rodriguez also said that even with the fraternity's support of Nepomuceno, President Aquino and De Lima would not allow a whitewash.

'His opinion'

Malacañang saw nothing wrong in Binay's remarks and does not intend to ask him to keep off the issue.

"We have to understand that the Vice President was able to talk to this person, Mr. Nepomuceno," the President's deputy spokesperson, Abigail Valte, said in response to questions by the Palace.

"On the other hand, there is also evidence in the possession of the NBI that nobody has been apprised of. So let's take that ... side control and let's just take his statement for what it is—his opinion," Valte said.

Asked if Malacañang would ask Binay to keep his distance from the case owing to his influence as the country's second most powerful official, Valte indicated that the administration saw no need for such a move.

"I think the intervention of the VP [was] already embedded in asserting the suspect to go to [the authorities] because the only request of the suspect was for his rights to be respected," Valte said.

"Let's see [how it goes] in the coming days. So far we see that the Vice President is allowing the legal process to take place," she said.

'Process will be followed'

Valte, herself a lawyer, said Malacañang "understood" where [Binay] was coming from" when he said he believed in Nepomuceno's innocence.

"But, again, we'd like to emphasize that the process will be followed and the determination will be based on the evidence presented and as assessed by the handling prosecutor," she said.

Valte said Malacañang trusted that the prosecutor assigned to handle the preliminary investigation would conduct the proceedings based on evidence.

She indicated that Nepomuceno's connections would not matter even if a group of APO lawyers had been assigned to represent him. (*Story on Page A1.*)

"The choice of the respondent as to his representation is perfectly within his right, but I can assure you that Justice Secretary Leila de Lima will not allow the investigation to be anything other than credible, objective, and based on admissible evidence," Valte said. *Reports from TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac, Germelino Bautista and Jeronne Ancog*

Joker agrees, for once

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR A CHANGE, Sen. Jinkoy Estrada has found something to agree with his former colleague, now President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

The lawmaker on Wednesday threw his support behind the President's move to have the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) renegotiated, a day after Aquino said he will offer to fine-tune provisions opposed by disadvantageous to the Philippines.

"President Aquino's announcement for the review of the VFA is timely, welcome, commendable, and much," he told this in a phone interview.

Since Mr. Aquino assumed office last June 30, Arroyo had been critical of his decisions. He earlier criticized the Presidents and members of his inner circle for supposedly micromanaging the country like a "smallest council."

Arroyo also assailed the President's decision to have a "two-man committee" to Malacañang review findings of the incident investigation and Review Committee on the Aug. 23 Manila hostage fiasco.

The Palace swore last surprised the findings and absolved Interior Undersecretary Jojo Pano, a close friend of Mr. Aquino, and other top government officials.

YWCA Manila turns 84

THE YOUNG Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Manila celebrated its 84th anniversary on Oct. 23 with the theme "Women Creating a Safe World."

Dr. Leonida B. Dizon, YWCA Manila president, led the children-raising ceremony of the Medical Mission for indigent members of the association.

The activity was sponsored by Transnational Medical and Diagnostic Center Inc. and held at the YWCA of Manila compound along with a thanksgiving Mass officiated by Fr. Neric Hurtado, OMI, of the St. Vincent Parish in San Marcelino, Manila.

After the Mass, the Rotary Club of Paraiso Oro, Manila (RCPPM), and RCPPM Foundation Inc. Blood Children Inc. carried out discussion for the YWCA Street Children Program.

The other activities in the anniversary celebration were breast and pap-smear examination conducted by the Philippine Cancer Society and a forum on women's health with Dr. Rosella Ilgi of the Department of Health as resource speaker, both held at the YL Sanchez Hall on Oct. 19.

YWCA Manila director Rella L. Hernia shared this year's anniversary celebration.

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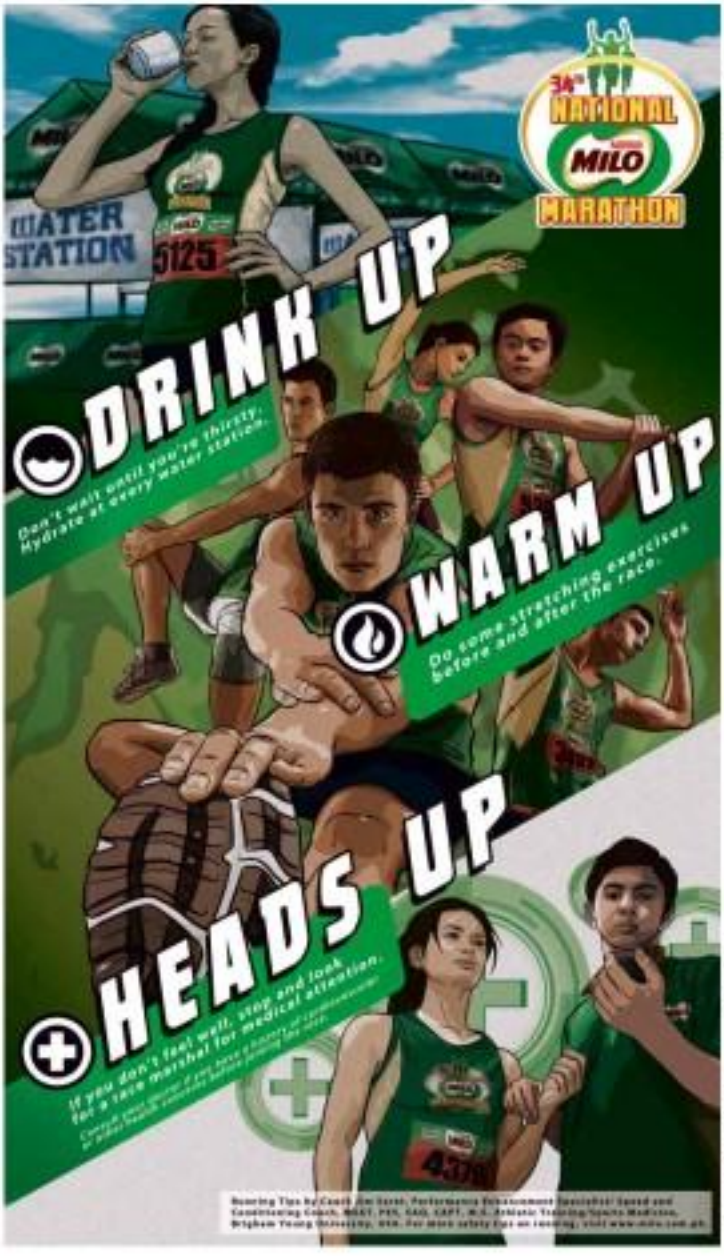

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OPINION

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Crime wave

AS MUCH as maintaining peace and order, it is the task of the police to make citizens feel shielded and safe from criminals. The first would be meaningless without the second, and the second would be impossible to accomplish without the first.

With regard to the first threat, the Philippine National Police appeared to have gained substantial headway during the first half of the year. In July, then PNP Director-General Oscar Albayalde announced that the crime index went down by almost 70 percent during the first six months of the year.

EDITORIAL

But shortly thereafter, a wave of criminal violence, starting with the Aug. 23 hostage-taking tragedy at Luneta, swept across the country, eroding the public's sense of security. The bombing of a passenger bus in Masiden, North Cotabato, was among just one of the bloodiest incidents in a continuing stream of headline-grabbing bombings, kidnappings, robbery holdups, car thefts and murders.

To cite a few of these incidents: On the very day of the bombing in Masiden, a bomb store found the temporary suspension of trading in the Philippine Stock Exchange, and a rural bank in Mandaue, Cebu, was held up. Days earlier, a nephew of a Comelec commissioner lost his P30 P2 million worth of cell phones and almost P1 million in cash to holdup men; a barangay councilor was murdered in Pangasinan in broad daylight; and on Oct. 23, a 40-foot trailer truck carrying millions of pesos worth of plastic resin was hijacked in Manila.

Kidnappings were reported in Zamboanga City, Midsayap in North Cotabato, and Simi in Sulu within a span of less than a month after the abduction of a Muslim trader in Marawi on Aug. 31. There, of course, there was that grenade explosion last Sept. 26 that injured 55 people, most of them young law students, during the final day of the 2018 bar exams.

Meanwhile, drug trafficking and various forms of the illegal numbers game continue to flourish around the country. The barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections last Oct. 25 left 30 people dead. The police have reorganized themselves for keeping the number of deaths related to last Monday's polls much lower than the 72 recorded in 2007 (although the latest report says the incidence of poll-related violence overshot the 70 in the 2007 elections by eight).

The impression is growing that criminals are able to strike at will, wherever and whenever they please, perhaps emboldened by the bungling of some cases by the police. That even police officers are getting killed, while their rogue comrades coddle crime syndicates and live on to become rich and influential.

These have been efforts to upgrade and strengthen the PNP's law enforcement capabilities. For example, the PNP has committed to hire new policemen and enhance its firepower and mobility. In the aftermath of the Aug. 23 hostage crisis, President Aquino ordered the training and creation of a highly specialized task force to handle hostage situations. He has vowed to improve intelligence gathering and information dissemination "in the operating units in a timely manner and we are able to prevent as much as possible and at the very least go after all (bombers)."

PNP Director-General Raul Bonoan has said that maintaining street crimes will be one of his priorities to "help bring back the trust and confidence in the police." He directed the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to go after crime syndicates. The PNP has also posted on its website (pnp.com.ph) crime prevention and safety tips in an apparent attempt to engage the citizenry in peace-keeping and to alert the public to a possible increase in kidnapping during the Christmas season.

None of these measures is new; in fact, most of these have been proven to be effective in the past. But warnings are not enough. The police would be the first to acknowledge that their presence is the most effective deterrent to crime. And just as powerful is the certainty that when crime does happen, the culprit will not get away. But to do these seemingly simple tasks would require greater discipline and hard work coupled with sincerity and commitment on the part of the police.

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Filipino cartoons and Alcala's 'Slice of Life'

THE FESTIVAL 2018 OF PICCA (Philippine International Cartoon, Comics & Animation) at SM North Edsa runs a huge success. It gathered together in one venue (The Block and Annex) the outstanding works of several generations of cartoonists and comic illustrators, from Jose Rizal and Fernando Amorsolo to Ang Kiukok and other contemporary cartoonists, plus samples of the beginnings of our outstanding comic artists, like Francisco Coching and Alfredo Alcala.

Comics were a very popular form of entertainment in the 1950s and 1960s. There was a time when one comics literature so popular that the industry was churning out at least two dozen titles a week.

Also, the comics industry has fallen on bad times, together with the vernacular magazines, with the rise of television as the new entertainment medium.

TV and the television picture industry have adopted many of the comics superheroes such as Darna, Superman, Spider Man, etc. as their own heroes, earning millions of dollars because of them.

Cartoons, editorial cartoons and comic strips are still very popular because of the newspapers.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the most famous editorial cartoonist was Gat, whose caricatures embraced the editorial pages of The Manila Chronicle. In the 1970s pages, it was Mauro Malang "Kuntar the Guy" with the roadbreak anecdote who poked fun at the Manila policemen every day. Later, Malang introduced "Chain-Saving Charlie," a convict with a bath and chain around his neck, in the weekly magazines.

Malang formed synergetics with two close friends and compadres, also cartoonists, Hugo Yuson Jr. and Larry Alcala. The three were inseparable and they frequented the Chronicle newsroom, together with Gat and other cartoonists. They spent the beginning a gallery on Mabini, three the owners of an gallery, where they gathered regularly and exhibited and sold their cartoons.

Yuson, who drew the daily comic strip "Valiant and May" for The Manila Times, was also an accomplished and prize-winning painter and art photographer, and his oil paintings are now much sought after and command astronomical prices. Malang is also now a much sought after oil painter.

Alcala's cartoons started on cartoons, both daily and weekly, for most famous strips being the weekly, "Kalabog en Bosyo," "Inspirasyon" and "Tipito," and the daily "Inuring Manyan." Alcala's cartoons were known for the many beautiful girls adorning the frames, reminiscent of the "American pin-up artist "Alex Raymond."

But Alcala became very famous for his full-page weekly cartoon "Slice of Life" which first appeared in the Weekend Magazine of the Daily Inquirer.

The police department of the PICCA chose to fill City some versions of "Slice of Life" by artist PICCA cartoonists. Indeed, they attracted the most viewers, next to the cartoonists drawing caricatures of willing models. There were two original Larry Alcala "Slice of Life" cartoons in the exhibit, just where it displayed in front of them the longest. You know why? They were looking for the caricatures of Alcala in the huge cartoons.

Alcala had an image of himself in the weekly "Slice of Life" cartoon as one of the boys in the FB gang: urban and rural life. It was like a puzzle, and readers enjoyed looking for him in the many characters and objects in the cartoon. How this same alcala makes an interesting sidebar.

When I was assigned as editor of the new Weekend Magazine of the Daily Inquirer, I had the problem of what to put on the back page: So I asked Larry Alcala to draw some, in color, of Philippine life, with many visual jokes, every week.

"What shall we call it ?" he asked.

"Slice of Life," I told him.

As I See It

Ninal H. Cruz

The cartoon was an immediate success. Later, I began to think of gimmicks to spice up the cartoon.

Larry and our gang were fans of the movie suspense director Alfred Hitchcock. The director always inserted himself in a scene in his movies—a fat man with a bugle bumping to board a bus, or seated with a group in a framed picture hanging on a wall. So when we launched a Hitchcock movie, we had a contest on who would spot Hitchcock first.

Alcala adopted this Hitchcock gimmick in his comic strips. He drew himself, a young man in dark horn-rimmed glasses, carrying a drawing board, walking in the background among many characters. Looking for him in his comic-tropical adventure an added attraction for his readers.

I asked Larry to do the same thing in "Slice of Life." He did, and from then on, readers, before looking at the whole cartoon, looked for him first.

But it soon became very easy to find his likeness, still wearing the same horn-rimmed glasses, but now fat, with a mustache and bigish hair. So I told Larry to hide himself in the whole frame, to make it harder to find him.

First, Larry put himself on mirrors reflected in a corner of the frame. Then he was hidden on magazine covers and news photographs. Then his face started appearing among rocks and trees. Then when readers learned to look for him among the rocks and bushes, Larry began to make "Slice of Life" look like a real puzzle. Sometimes they had to look at the whole page upside down or sideways to find him.

The cartoon soon became bigger and more in-capering the whole page, and apparent only when one looked at several objects together at a certain angle and distance. It became harder to find him, and readers took a longer time looking closely at the cartoon. Readers enjoyed their many hours, looking at the cartoon, laughing at the visual jokes and looking for his image.

Alas, with the death of Larry, "Slice of Life" died, with him, and the younger generations can no longer enjoy his humor and his art. I think a coffee table book of all his "Slice of Life" cartoons should be published.

To my dear student-priests

THERE WERE four iconic fathers Lincoln Cardinals, Sammy (misspelled Sanny) de Claro, Edgardo Corona, Alexander Thomas, Antonio Bevacqua, Jr., figures who have made priests in a series in the edition, "Priests-students Dekkan system are." (Inquirer, 10/1/18)

Your name brought back memories for many an attitude, you are very dear to me, a "priest-in-law" connection as Gen Carlos Armstrong and the Regionnaire Seminary with whom I spent the last dawn years of teaching, rudely terminated by the onset of double vision right in the dawn. Now, Nobody noticed as I cautiously poked my nose down the staircase at last Carlos.

Your letter brought back memories for many an attitude, you are very dear to me, a "priest-in-law" connection as Gen Carlos Armstrong and the Regionnaire Seminary with whom I spent the last dawn years of teaching, rudely terminated by the onset of double vision right in the dawn. Now, Nobody noticed as I cautiously poked my nose down the staircase at last Carlos.

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Marcoshe

Now we could explore the meanings of what Cardinals Gomez would readily say what he thought. Or Gen would pause before giving his measured opinion. Thomas might smile and frown. Or we could confuse each other by having meanings that are not there. And after colloquial conversion, we could finally agree that there are no answers to the truth of the questions. Do we would have no evil and we are no evil and dismiss the matter as just an amusing story.

But no one thinks it was just an amusing story. "Humour" was instantly picked up like every saying and messages were absorbed to both its parts and to the whole. The literature has been flooded with meanings mixed with flotsam through which you must navigate.

But what is the meaning of your choice? That's important. At this point, your one-time teacher chooses to sit still not as a listener student, but figure.

Since we are as symbols, we might as well go the mile. I refer to the babies and because the service in the airplane toilet, the dead voice in the Cathedral and Quiapo Church, a dead newborn on Roxanne Tarzan, a bear in the Marshall toilet. Are they isolated cases or deliberate "plants" to "malign the Church" (Romans, 15:14/16) or simply symbolic as "neologisms statements of unwanted pregnancies," now becoming a most recent problem?

I am tempted to accost the teacher's pleasure again and ask you to write a half page response to the last question.

We can't go on dividing the issue anything because these symbols. We all know what it is. Let's go on simply group books and toss some statements and references too.

• High hopes for the dialogue between bishops and leaders are dim in the sense that neither will change their mind; but there are talking points to disturb one. (See the Bill papers by the Loyola School of Theology and Fr. John Carroll's assessment in the mid-week Inquirer.)

• Let there be no more name-calling, labeling, intellectually dishonest accusations like "obstructor," "pro-death," "an abortionist/ist."

• Anyone who would comment on the Bill will should read comprehensively. (See the Reproductive Health Bill Primer, Family Planning and Development, 9180505—Philippine Center for Population and Development.)

• Science may still most all our priests on our other life begins: a friend just told me about the ultrasound test on "nourishment" which is certainly worth checking.

• The bottom line is not "foreign funded" or "the saintly mother argument" but whether birth control is moral or not. This is the sticky part. Even Humanae Vitae, the Church has never explicitly claimed to repeat infallibly on a moral question" ("Christian Morality" chapter in Richard McBrien's "Catholicism"). There are two models of morality: one looks only at the "act", another also considers "circumstances and motives." The first depends on a general principles valid from the top; one one else. All. The second weighs in who what when etc. on specific applications of the principle whereby are all contemporaries, etc. is invented. (See "A Morally Complex World" by Anton Stickle, S.J.) And we have many more examples.

Since we have gone back to school, let's quote newly baptized Henry Cardinal Newman's this purpose. "the culture of the intellect," "... to increase the original firmness of the mind's vision, to help it to see into the world right forward, steadily and truly, to give the mind clearness, accuracy, precision ... to conceive justly what is thinks about, to abstract, compare, analyze, decide, define, and reason correctly."

Happy reading!

Asuncion David Marcoshe is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marcdv_ph@yahoo.com, fax 8586454.

The days of kites and 'komiks'

HIGH BLOOD

Hugo Yorzon

WHO says I have attained past the age of 60, never enters my dreams? Not in my waking moments? Even remaining days. Not in hindsight. Are they serious? I jump in the arms of Lady Gaga and tap dance to my iPod, so certainly I am not ready to part hospitality in the unseen airport.

Many of my elders hurried bedtime complains that kids get too absorbed in the virtual world, befriending humans with pseudonyms and pixel, not flesh, only to let themselves unbound by flesh and blood.

In our games, jobs and working press, we played our selves. Our opponents and aromatic were real. We hoarded jolens (marbles) and only playing cards in the streets. Then and now imaginary friends the crops in correspondent hand-holds.

The kids of today enjoy a myriad of electronic devices. There are more, for instance, graphic novels or new generation comics. Manufacturers, the kids crave.

I didn't use to love comics. Every time my father came home with few leaving from the tailgate (two numbers) in Pasa, the would bring comics, but those were not for me. I was addicted to pamphlets. I would get lost in the pages of fantasies and dreams, fun marveling at the drawings by the master Francisco Coching, Alfredo Alcala and Steve Ditko. I would read and read, and then I ended up reading not how to read and spell... certainly at that... an unlike today's mobile phones that have spawned a generation of linguistic pygmoons.

Filipino komiks (comics) were the pride and joy pillars of comics or komiks that we flowers or fernando. Carpio could topple: Filipino komiks, triangle, Tagalog Klasiks and Espesyal. Tarzan, Superman, Batman and Robin, Phantom and Flash Gordon up to today are just one-time television, all housing the soldier of many telling we had before.

There was a period when I would hunt my collection of comics to the other side of the railroad tracks in San Andres, not to buy them, but to sell them myself. Just when I hung my collection and, in front of a boy bubble gum, somewhere. At age 7, I was learning how to share the joys of comics when I should have been selling them. Years later, I was rebuked up to today on part

SECRETARY SINGSON MISSED THE POINT

In answer to DPWH Secretary Rogelio Singson's statements [PDI, October 27, 2013] to my open letter appeal to President Aquino last October 6, 2013, PDI, he certainly missed the points I brought up.

1. Mrs. Margie Ico in herself in a statement to the Manila Bulletin admitted that she talked to you only by telephone.

2. You said that you sent "two engineers just there, as Morales alleged, who inspected the building." But the letter of the so-called report to you was signed by three, Engineers Wilfredo Valdz, Engineer Jaime Pineda and sealed by Engineer Wilfredo Lopez.

3. Please admit that you simply validated and concurred "with the private engineering firm PCSO hired." Didn't I say that said report was defrauded by the PCSO board on July 1, 2009 together with then DOH Secretary Francisco Duque representing President Arroyo? The consultancy firm who did the study upon interrogation by the full board, confessed that only 30% of the complex is defective, NOT even 50% as he originally claimed!

4. In the report of the private consultancy firm that you adopted gave the two options: to repair some weak parts, or to demolish. And if you adopted and agreed with the questioned report, then 70 of you read it in toto! you agreed to the two options as well.

5. That private consultancy firm's vasting angered the Philippine Tuberculosis Society (PTSI), owner of the property, whose president is Mrs. Zenaida (Nini) Quezon Avancena, for hosting holes on all the columns without the PTSI's permission.

In an angry letter addressed to the PCSO, PTSI claimed that what the private consultancy firm did, weakened the structure and demanded the PCSO to fix the damages inflicted on the building.

6. The PCSO started repairing and strengthening the two areas indicated to be structured, the most important of which was declared to lose at the cost of almost P30M before the new board took over. Only a portion on the 3rd floor on the East Wing remains to be reinforced.

7. The complex is composed of several buildings, mostly sound and not found to have any defection. Have their cut the DPWH and the cave found abandon a 6.3 hectare property, free of rent, for only a grant of P2,4M a month, with 47 year lease remaining out of the 50 years?

8. Please, not make sense, Secretary Singson, to "demolish" the entire complex. You said: "To maintain its historical value, some original portions particularly the facade, can be preserved. The rest of the structure must be demolished and reconstructed." I cannot agree with you, Mr. Secretary, for that's only done to an historical structure that is defective by 60% and above, NOT when only a part is defective by only 30%.

Would you demolish an entire bridge with only a 30% defect that can still be repaired? I wonder!

If you only knew, had you gone to see the place personally, the hundreds of millions of pesos worth of equipment already installed such as the Main Computer Center (MCC), the Management Information System (MIS) that takes care of computerizations and telecommunications for voice telephone and data networks, and many other facilities, maybe you would not be so trigger happy.

It is not my desire to unjust with them to power now but I know that, together with the 1,300 employees of the PCSO who also do not believe the reports, will never get anywhere. Brushes in the name of the game, said to say.

From hereon, please let's leave it up to the Supreme Court to do an independent and unbiased decision.

Manuel L. Morato
Quezon City
mlmoratostyle@yahoo.com

P.S.
The word in quotes Coleridge's Quixote' alludes on the last chapter in respect to last attorney for defending his mother in a House for the Aged. She should have committed him to a "plant" / home—insane, not outside.

PAID ADVT

'Free' heartens Morong 43

LETTERS

WE EXTEND our gratitude to and commend the lawyers for its Sec. 17 editorial titled "Free." The editorial's firm call for our immediate release is a timely act that heartened us and our families. The lawyers locked into our plight and mobilize even though we are not as prominent and high-profile as the Napoles cohorts, to understand our situation, sentiments and concerns even though we have been "hidden away from the public."

Eight months in detention has never been easy for us. We still bear the pain and suffering brought upon us since the day we were illegally arrested. The 96 hours (48 hours to some), we were handcuffed, blindfolded and threatened, physically and psychologically. These experiences of human rights violations can never be forgotten by us. As health workers who have voluntarily served years for living communities, we have reached out to our poor countrymen in provinces and urban poor communities that were the victims of the past administration's desperate drive to produce "captured NPAs," like thousands of other individuals and families critical of the Arroyo administration's anti-people politics.

As we go into our ninth month of detention, we appeal to the Aquino administration to give justice to the Morong 43 and all political prisoners. Terrifying the citizen means fooling us unconstitutionally and illegally. We call for the immediate release and compensation to uphold justice and demand our release. In our struggle to be free, we ask for the continued support, in all forms, of the different media organizations, local and international human rights organizations, church people and peace-loving countrymen. Your genuine concern for our hardships and sufferings is the armor and strength we need in our continuing fight for freedom and justice.

—MORONG 43,
Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City
(c/o tita Aileen Lubillo, general secretary, Salaknib 1572 Outsiders Lilac
st. Bonanza 2 Subdv. Dolor,
subic.phil@gmail.com

Truth Commission a waste COA must probe

PRESIDENT AQUINO should rethink the Truth Commission (TC) which is said to be primarily built into 15, and counting, energy-sapping government investigations by people mostly long retired.

Another lesson may have to be created to look at the results. The Commission on Audit has examining whether the TC will duplicate the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice, now led by a triple situation: Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Justice Secretary Leonardo Leila, a Honorable Cabinet gem, sake? The ill-Conceden Investigation and Review Committee's report was mangled. She was ignored so seriously, how her job it being given to the TC, which will even duplicate the DOJ's Witness Protection Program.

The COA should probe the wastage, which is banned by the Constitution, Republic Act 6713 and common sense, as it must many more, place of hard luck. Congress should probe the theft of its prerogatives, but should not be the disinterested—not "influential"—that the Constitution meant to stop to smell the flowers.

The TC commissioners will again have to file assets statements, and duties, given the magnitude of the scandal they say the public owes. Blaming people is no easy-time hobby. They are told that some public officials for as long was years, handling the major, major cases causing only the minor, minor chuffle to Secretary De Lima—that is the "least unbelievable of all."

Maybe now you, P-Noy should name Secretary de Lima to the Supreme Court vice Associate Justice Secretary Lucas Bersamin. What to Do vide Jr. and company take over the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to? Ombuds remain in country-as quarry's. Any president can name a panel for a task or two, but not a wide-ranging one. Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales? Work. Yes, how long would it take the TC to probe G.I. sales? Or be even warned? How it says it may even go beyond Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's words.

Take out breath away.

—SIXTO DOLOSO,
rsordan@gmail.com

Insensitive to elderly and disabled

I did a physically challenged individual who relies on public transport for my daily commuting needs.

Last May 4, 2013, I wrote a letter to the Victory Liner Bus Co. to bring to its attention its drivers' and conductors' practice of picking up the seats, specifically numbers 1 and 4, to persons other than the physically handicapped and elderly for whom the seats are intended for. Since then I have not heard or received any reply from the bus company. Little did I know that Victory Liner's policy of providing seats for the disabled and senior citizens means nothing.

On Sept. 30, 2013, while I was about to board a bus to go to San Fernando, Pampanga, I noticed that there were passengers sitting on seat numbers 3 and 4, they were neither disabled nor senior citizens. When I went to the booth to buy my ticket, I asked the lady manning the counter that I wanted a seat in the front section. The lady told me that I have to take another trip because the "front seats" were "for men," meaning, they're on a "first come, first serve" basis. I responded that the seats are reserved for disabled persons and senior citizens. She then realized that they were. Now aware I did not want to argue, so I just agreed to wait for another bus. I felt this was the response of the company to my letter.

Perhaps Victory Liner does not realize that as a common carrier its operation is regulated by a franchise or a certificate of public convenience. The word "public convenience" includes the operation of services for physically challenged individuals and senior citizens. Try walking down the bus' narrow aisle on crutches or if you are a senior citizen and suffering from arthritis, and to be encouraged to carry baggage bending your way.

This reminds me of a black woman in the town of Rosa Parks of Alabama in the 1950s who refused to give up her bus seat in front of a white man. Rosa Parks was fined, African-Americans were treated as second-class citizens, inferior to white Americans for her "fashion" act she was arrested, and this triggered a wave of protests.

I am no Rosa Parks but this insensitivity of Victory Liner to the needs of physically challenged individuals and senior citizens has to be addressed and resolved by the proper authorities, stomps.

—ANTHONY S. BONIFACIO,
41 First St., New Cabalan,
Olongapo City

Disguised as women's health issue

WE WRITE this letter on behalf of all Filipino married couples and parents who are pro-life, pro-marriage, pro-family and pro-health.

The history of mankind tells us that God Himself instituted marriage in paradise and instituted the sacredness of the human family bringing with it the gift of life and love. The youth, family and nation are creations of any nation. They are protected by civil society and its legislation.

Marriage does the Reproductive Health bill call for? It tells us to have sex (no need to named con-sequence—the generation of new life—through the use of chemical or mechanical contraceptives. This is why the Catholic Church rejects contraception, which is considered as a deliberate refusal of the gift of children. Within the Catholic concept of sexual love, the use of the natural rhythms of the body to regulate fertility is a more humanistic way in live up to man's procreative responsibility than the use of the artificial or mechanical contraceptives. Following the body's rhythms honors the design built into creation by God, and it fosters the truth due to the total mutual gift of one spouse to the other. Pope John Paul II calls the "institution of the Gospel" by which loving and giving life are intimately linked.

The appeal to our legislators not to be swayed into collaborating with foreign institutions that intentionally produce anti-life and anti-population programs as weapons to limit and population growth in developing countries may not legislate push for a pro-life, pro-marriage, pro-family and pro-people nation.

—FERNANDO and LOURDES VICENTE BALDERAS

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INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aquino urges Burma to free Suu Kyi immediately

From page A1

close commitments, only saying the legal processes of Burma (Myanmar) would be followed, Carandang said.

"It is disappointing not just for the Philippines, I think, but for many of the Asean neighbors, that progress in the international community," Cerna said, citing bold reporters.

"They would've viewed the release of Suu Kyi San Kyi as a clear indication that the government of Myanmar was serious on taking steps on its roadmap to democracy. The lack of commitment on that was disappointing to the President."

Philippine experience

Carandang added that Mr. Aquino offered to share whether the Philippines' experiences in transitioning to democracy, citing Filipinos' peaceful moves to democratic government.

In response, Thein Sein said his country had set up an election commission in the forthcoming polls and that many different parties and ethnic groups are participating. He expressed confidence that the elections would be free and fair.

Carandang said Thein Sein also assured Aquino Burma was willing to accept observers to its elections. The Philippines has not decided who that to send observers.

Asked what else the Philippines could do to push for Suu Kyi's release, Carandang said it would be difficult to close Burma to take concrete steps toward democracy. He noted while the translation of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) has a charter, its enforcement has been weak.

What could be done is to talk to them to do what is right, he added.

A sham

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said The Associated Press that even though democratic reforms but he able to participate in the Nov. 7 elections, their release would at least ensure a "perception that this election will be more inclusive."

Burma's military rulers have enacted laws that prevent Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners from contesting the elections. That leaves the key junta-backed party as the only strong contender to win the elections, which have been slammed by critics as a privileged sham.

"Without releasing all political prisoners, their votes may certainly be some issue of legitimacy or credibility" Ban said in the exclusive interview in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

He gave the interview before flying to Hanoi where he will meet with Suu Kyi's release on the sidelines of the annual Asean summit. Although Thein Sein represents his country at international events, he takes his orders from junta leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe.

For the first time, the military government confirmed that Than Shwe would not be participating in the national polls, resorting to diplomats at the Hanoi conference, though it remains unclear what role he may have after the elections.

'He'll be president'

Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Burmese Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin told his counterparts during an informal dinner on Wednesday that Than Shwe would not be on the ballot.

Than Shwe is widely expected to have some role anyway, in after elections. Many think he would become the new president, which is not an elected position.

"We know the issues they have, he will be elected president, I'm almost sure," Romulo said.

WORLD WAITS FOR HER FREEDOM The face of Burma's detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi remains uncertain. Suu Kyi carried her party to a landslide win in Burma's last free election in 1990. The ruling generals ignored the results and have kept the Nobel Peace Prize winner locked up on and off ever since.

Makeover

The military junta, which has been in control of Burma for the past five decades, worked to put a fresh face on the oppressive country at the Hanoi meeting, unveiling a redesigned flag and new national motto—going from "Union of Myanmar" to "Republic of the Union of Myanmar."

Many observers view the makeover a month-a facade to mask the shortcomings of the long-awaited elections.

The junta has billed the polling as a big move forward in the country's so-called roadmap to democracy. Critics say the party has taken steps to block transparency and ensure that the military remains in power by repressing the main opposition party and limiting campaigning.

Barriers officials ordered to illegally confine Cerna say the pro-Kyi, who has been imprisoned or under house arrest for 15 of the past 22 years, would be released from her house arrest when her detention expires on Nov. 13.

Uncertain fate

Romulo said San Kyi's fate remained uncertain. During the Wednesday dinner, Nyan Win simply insisted that the country would follow its laws.

"We all pressed him to release Aung San Suu Kyi, but he was noncommittal," Romulo said, adding that he told Nyan Win he was uncomfortable the would be released at all.

"I am skeptical about that," Romulo said he told Nyan Win. "The world is watching and after that she is mentioned again with another, so there's no end to it."

San Kyi's party is boycotting the elections as undemocratic after it won a landslide victory in 1990 that was dismissed by the military leaders. Other world leaders also are expected to pool Burma during the Asean meeting.

Territorial spats

Cerna also is expected to [illegible] disputes discussions following a number of territorial spats on the high seas.

China claims sovereignty over the entire South China Sea, but parts of it are also claimed by several of its Southeast Asian neighbors, including Vietnam and the Philippines.

Heads of state from the Asean countries—Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—along with leaders from China, Japan, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States are attending the summit.

Talks between Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihiko Noda in Cambodia Thursday reportedly failed to ease their bilateral diplomatic row in years, centered on a disputed East China Sea island chain.

A meeting scheduled for Friday between the economic ministers of Japan, China and South Korea has already been cancelled, casting further doubt on the two-way talks between Asia's biggest powers.

The summit is also expected to unveil the plans over the controversy war that has sent exchange rates and share prices rocketing in the region's emerging economies.

While China has kept a tight grip on the yuan, Japan and emerging Asian economies have seen their currencies war against the US dollar, making their exports less competitive and inviting a massive inflow of foreign capital. Reports from AP and AFP

RP, Thailand agree to work together to tackle peso, baht

From page B1

economic, said spokesperson Richi Carandang.

"The two leaders agreed there should be more frequent contact between central bankers and finance ministers of the two countries and Asean so we can coordinate more closely our actions because of the strengthening currencies we are seeing right now, which could have strong impact on exports," Carandang said in answers.

He said that during the talks, the Thai leader noted that the peso, like the baht, had been gaining ground against the US dollar, and that exporters were concerned about their declining profits.

Global factors

"So Prime Minister Abhisit suggested that central bankers and finance ministers meet more frequently to come up with common positions on how we are going to deal with these strengthening currencies," Carandang said.

He said Mr. Aquino stated that global factors, such as the weakening of the US dollar, affected the performances of their currencies.

Carandang also said exports were still doing quite well as of late, but there were concerns that those would slow down in the Philippines and in Thailand.

Dr. Bredesweg, Filipino workers in Vietnam also expressed their concern about the strongest peso during a meeting with Mr. Aquino. They said that while they understood that the strongest peso was helping the Philippines, it had adversely affected their remittances.

Mr. Aquino told the Filipino workers that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was trying to balance the various concerns and was working to keep the peso stable in order to entice more investors to come to the country.

Partnerships

Mr. Aquino invited Thailand to do business in the Philippines and to take a look at the public-private partnerships being undertaken to develop infrastructure, that there were no specific projects discussed.

Mr. Aquino told reporters he was looking forward to Asean taking more action to resolve their common problems at the end of the summit.

"So we can gather from the Thai's 'Team' broke to action," there are so many problems that affect the entire region, from global warming to the issue of piracy, to so many other issues that really affect not only one state but it affects... the entire region. Even the growth of our economy is dependent on acting in unison and in concert with those who are our closest neighbors," he said.

RP's permanent rep

Mr. Aquino said he expected the summit to move toward harmonizing and unifying the region so that they could tackle their problems together.

He also announced that he had decided to appoint Alfredo Villaroya, a former Asean deputy secretary general, as the Philippines' permanent representative to the regional organization. He will replace former senator and TV broadcaster Orlando Mercado.

ROYAL COMPANY President Aquino exchanges pleasantries with Brunei Darussalam's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah on the sidelines before the formal opening of the 17th Asean Summit in Hanoi.

GETTING THE NAME OF IT President Aquino meets Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva during the Philippine-Thailand bilateral meeting on Thursday on the sidelines of the 17th Asean summit. Mr. Aquino's first.

Deal on sea rescue

In Manila, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said it was prepared to cooperate with the Netherlands in sea rescue efforts and antimarine pollution following the signing of two memorandum of agreements (MOA) during Mr. Aquino's visit to Vietnam.

PCG commandant Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo, who was part of Aquino's entourage, yesterday said the MOAs were on cooperation in search and rescue at sea and cooperation in oil spill preparedness and response.

Tamayo, in a statement issued by the PCG in Manila yesterday, said the two MOAs were an evidence of the growing recognition of the role of the PCG in national development as well as strengthening inter-national relations. With a report from Jerome Aning

Columnist quotes Neri: GMA pressured me on NBN-ZTE deal

From page A1

ties of columns on the NBN-ZTE deal in early 2007.

The columnist said Neri called him up on the morning of April 28, 2007, to complain about the deal, which was to be signed in China the next day.

Bondoc said Neri, who believed that the deal was anomalous, was "agitated" during their conversation.

Bondoc was called to the witness stand in the graft case against former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos in the Sandiganbayan fourth division yesterday.

Abalos is accused of offering a P200-million bribe to Neri for the latter's endorsement of the NBN deal with ZTE Corp. The project sought to connect government offices nationwide down to the barangay level via a broadband network.

Pressured by Arroyo

The columnist said Neri told him: "Inutos ako ni (President I) was pressured by the President.)"

When he asked about the personalities involved in the deal, Bondoc said Neri "mentioned Abalos, a certain Bolly Rancio and some more person, either Jun Miguel Arroyo or President Arroyo."

Rancio, the chair and president of International Container Terminal Services Inc., was reportedly the party treasurer of Team Unity for administration's senatorial slate in the 2007 elections.

During their phone conversation, Neri was "agitated, and angry and then he became sad," Bondoc said.

Life endangered

Neri also allegedly told Bondoc: "My life is in your hands, so will both be endangered by this."

In an ambush interview with Neri after a separate hearing on the NBN-ZTE deal yesterday, the former socioeconomic planning secretary said he could not recall implicating the Arroyos, Rancio and Abalos in the deal in his conversations with Bondoc.

"I don't know about that," Neri told reporters.

In past Senate hearings on the scandal, Neri invoked "executive privilege" to refuse to answer questions regarding Pangandaman Arroyo's participation in the deal.

Kickbacks

Whistle blowers Rodolfo Lozada Jr., a former Neri aide at Neda, and Jose de Venecia III, a businessman involved in the broadband project, accused the Arroyos and their allies like Abalos of commanding the kickbacks from the project.

The Ombudsman had charged Neri with violation of the anti-graft law he allegedly conducting with Abalos on the NBN project even though the latter was not supposed to be involved in it, and for allegedly meeting with ZTE officials when the project was

KOMIKUD NERI The congressman counts turnabout

under assessment.

The Ombudsman, however, cleared Arroyo and her husband of any liability in connection with the NBN deal.

Then President Arroyo witnessed the signing of the contract in China on April 2007, but she cancelled it months later when details of the deal's kickbacks and testimonies implicating her and husband Jose Miguel Arroyo came to light at the Senate hearings. The project now is bare from funded by a loan from China.

No need for GMA

The former President does not have to appear in court as witness to the graft case against Neri, who was accused of committing irregularities in violation of the NBN-ZTE deal, the Sandiganbayan said yesterday.

The fifth division, which is hearing the graft case filed against Neri, yesterday granted Arroyo's petition that the subpoena issued against her on Sept. 11 be dismissed.

"Wherefore, for being moot and academic, the Motion to Quash Subpoena issued on Elisha Mariquipal Arroyo" dated Oct. 7, 2011, is hereby granted and said subpoena is ordered quashed," the court said.

Arroyo, now a Pampanga congresswoman, was summoned to testify at Neri's trial.

The Sandiganbayan said it agreed with Arroyo's assertion that "her right to remain silent, in any event, is absolute, and she cannot be taken against him."

Therefore, as matters concerning the NBN-ZTE deal, accused Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, as long as she is being investigated for the same matter, can never be an "ordinary witness."

While Arroyo was not accused of graft in the fifth division, she could not be considered an "ordinary" witness in the case against her former subordinate, the Sandiganbayan said.

"There is no question that instant is being accused of having committed illegal acts in connection with the NBN-ZTE deal, and that those alleged illegal acts are subject of investigation in different venues," the antigraft court said.

Comelec apologizes for delays

Now, it's 'yellow army' blamed for election glitches

From page A1

in their local elections.

"I can say from the head, we apologize for these delays that happened in our country's counting much anguish and pain among our voting public," Sarmiento said in a press briefing. "Election are not a piece on us have these problems."

Sarmiento said the Comelec could not blame others as it was the agency tasked under the law to oversee elections.

"It is an apology in the sense that there were really delays. Isn't that the truth? Even the chair has expressed dismay. Even the Constitution...the ultimate redeemer of all laws related to elections, refrains in duty and plitimate in the Comelec," he said.

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"You cannot put the blame on other institutions. I think it proper to say that we apologize," he added.

Time to be sober

Another Comelec official, Director Ferdinand Balayon, said the poll body was answerable for what happened. But he pleaded for a stop to attacks on the Comelec, saying an internal fact-finding committee had already opened an inquiry.

"The Comelec has its own up to it," Balayon said as the separate forge press tension in Quezon City. "We're in charge of the elections, and if there are shortcomings we are answerable for those."

Balayon said: "The time has come for us to be sober. Let's just prepare for the All Saints' Day and for Christmas. Let's stop pointing fingers, and let the fact-finding committee handle it."

Alleged sabotage

Sarmiento said the fact-finding panel would also investigate whether the vote-phones who personally delivered election materials to the provinces should be held liable.

He said there was a Comelec decision stating that forwarding companies should be the ones to make the deliveries.

Sarmiento said the fact-finding panel would also investigate the "declared reconstitution" of the vote bills and awards committee, "the participation of some personnel" in the Comelec packing and shipping committee in alleged "acts of sabotage" and the delay in the printing of ballots by the National Printing Office.

He said these were the three areas to be looked into by the panel headed by Commissioner Armando Velasco.

Leave talk

Sarmiento dismissed as "loose talk" reports that Comelec Chair Jose Melo, who is on a private trip to Hawaii, was going into early retirement after the barangay election results.

"That is not true because when he left he abroad, he never mentioned about retirement after his trip from Hawaii. I think the best person who could answer this question will be Chair Melo himself," he said.

He said the rumors might have stepped up because Melo himself broached the idea of resigning after the successful presidential election in May.

"On several occasions, he would say to some of us, after the successful holding of the automated elections, that, 'I think it is time to retire.' So, that could be one reason why those talks are circulating," Sarmiento said.

"But there was no confirmation from him that after his trip he would retire," he added.

He denied reports that President Aquino had offered Melo an ambassadorial post. "There is no truth to that," he said.

Not a failure

As of yesterday, 93,344 barangays have declared the winners in the races.

"So, it's not a failure," Sarmiento said. "I'm going to undo it between 7:1 and 8. It's not 9 or 10, considering the delays."

He said that 11 barangays in Iloilo and the municipality of Datu Unsay, Maguindanao, did not hold elections due to violence and these areas would hold special elections.

Next month, two barangays in two towns in Northern Samar, two in Basilan, Tarlac, three towns in Isabela and nine barangays in Pasaquin, Kalinga, will also hold special elections.

Balayon, the head of the Comelec's legal department and bids and award committee, declined to answer questions on whether the voting was sabotaged by hackers.

Pinpointing lapses

"In previous elections there were always lapses. My people here or that as a result of the [investigation], we'll be able to pinpoint lapses in the system and the people involved so we can improve it," Balayon said.

The fact-finding panel has been given 15 days to look into the causes of the delays and the liability of any personnel.

Its leader has said some employees and officials assisted the delays because they wanted to get a share of the P500-million budget for delivering voting materials.

Kalintan conceded the Comelec relaxed its preparations following a consensus among lawmakers to put off the elections. Frustrations delivering the elections were eventually raised down.

"We relaxed a bit in our plans because what was devoted was expenditure of money," he said. "But as we look back, we should still have prepared."

House probe

Capiyan de Din Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said the House of Representative should push ahead with its own inquiry.

"You can't just leave this to the Comelec, which is the one at fault. The one at fault is investigating themselves. It should be another body that should be able to investigate," he said in the interview.

The House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms is set to open its inquiry after Congress resumes sessions on Nov. 8.

At the Kapihan sa Senado, Senate Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the Comelec should not be allowed to investigate itself to avoid a whitewash.

"At present, if a Comelec personnel violates any provision of the law, he cannot be investigated by other departments. The one which will investigate is the Comelec itself so the tendency is to cover up because if you remove the small people, it will affect the higher ups," Pimentel said.

He proposed that the Comelec charter be amended so that another body, like the Office of the Ombudsman, take charge of any such investigation. With reports from Dil C. Cabacungan Jr.

By Dil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALAYAN Miguel Zubiri yesterday claimed the Commission on Elections (Comelec) might not have been forthright in giving President Aquino an accurate assessment of its capability to hold the barangay polls to soon after the presidential election.

"The Comelec should have been more accurate in its recommendation. If it was not ready it should have said so. Maybe we needed a six-month postponement and we in the legislative body were ready to give it to them," Zubiri told reporters.

Had the Comelec given Mr. Aquino an honest report of its capability, Zubiri said the President might have headed Congress' plea for a deferment.

Zubiri said most lawmakers, including those in the House of Representatives, were for postponing the village and youth polls.

"They were just forced by the 'yellow army' of the President to set the party line. It was a Liberal Party crash," Zubiri claimed.

He said Malacañang, specifically presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, should not be "crisis-oblivious" about being blamed for the election glitches considering that Mr. Aquino had decided to push through with the elections despite nationwide warnings from Congress.

"He did not listen so they should not feel sore if we blame them," Zubiri said.

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JESUS IS LORD

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Weak evidence kills airport bombing case

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Department of Justice trashed the charges against seven respondents—including three Sulu politicians—in connection with the Aug. 5 bombing at Zamboanga International Airport.

Two people—including the suspected bomb carrier—were killed in the explosion that also injured Sulu Gov. Abdusakur Tan and 23 others.

Regional State Prosecutor Ricardo Calanoy yesterday confirmed that charges against Gov. Tan; representative Abdul Alkhier, former mayors Ahmad Nash of Pangutaran and Najib Mudlas of Maimbung, former Sanggunian Bayan member Jojo Jehim, Adzhan's son-in-law Mudzar Alih and assistant Sulu engineer Abdulmanan Hadjiri were dismissed for lack of evidence.

"We dismissed the case because the evidence presented is very weak and one of the witnesses retracted his testimony," Calanoy said.

The same witness earlier accused Adzhan and the six other officials of plotting the bombing to kill his nemesis Tan.

"We thoroughly discussed the evidence presented and we came up with an unanimous finding of dismissal of the case against the respondents," Calanoy said.

But he said charges against the other accused—Addong Salahuddin and Alnas Sahibuddin—still stay.

Calanoy said a warrant has been issued for Salahuddin's arrest, while police are investigating Sahibuddin.

In Maimbung, North Cotabato, relatives of two men arrested and charged in connection with the Oct. 31 bombing of a Rural Transit bus accused authorities of torturing the men.

The relatives sought the help of human rights groups after seeing signs of beating on Hadji Alamia Samad and Tok-Gwa Ser-ip Jaw, Ebrahim Alimam, at the North Cotabato provincial jail late Monday.

Human rights workers were, however, barred from seeing the detainees.

Authorities denied mistreating the suspects, who were among four men arrested in Cotabato City in connection with the blast that killed 20 persons and wounded more than two dozen others.

A 19-year-old boy, who confessed to planting the bomb, tagged the suspects as the ones who paid him to get the job done.

Interior Secretary Jesus Año Dobles, however, commended six police officers involved in the blast investigation. —Julie Alipala, Sarah Macabalang and Nelbinmar Magbanua, Inquirer Mindanao

THIS WOMAN belongs to an indigenous community that is protesting government's decision to award a title over their lands to another family.

Top scientist says IPs key to forest protection

BAGUIO CITY—A top Filipino scientist last week said granting ancestral domain titles to indigenous Filipinos is helping save forests from total destruction.

Most forest dwellers in the Philippines are families of indigenous peoples (IP) who practice conservation, said Dr. Lourdes Cruz, a National Scientist and professor emeritus of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute.

"In the whole planet, 80 percent of indigenous peoples dwell in lands [rich in flora and fauna]," she said.

Cruz talked about the benefits of empowering IPs at the three-day National Science Convention of the Philippine Society for the Study of Nature (PSSN) in UP Baguio last week.

Cruz said some of the progress made in protecting Philippine ecology can be attributed to government policies supportive of indigenous Filipino traditions, like the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and the campaign waged by Bagnio City-based Tebtebba Foundation.

The Tebtebba campaign led to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Philippines, like the rest of UN member countries, failed to curb forest destruction this year, a target set by world leaders.

Cruz also cited the impact of migrant populations on Asia dwellers of Bataan Nature Park (Batanes Reserve).

A growing population of lowlanders could be responsible for a dwindling honey harvest. Batanes used to mill 10 litres daily in the late 1980s. This year, the tribe harvests only one litre daily.

Cruz said granting IPs ancestral domain titles increases their capacity to determine their lives, "but we need to touch them not just their rights but their responsibilities."

She said homeowners try to find ways to alert the law on preserving tribal communities or buy tribal folk out of their lands.

A legislator, however, said a moratorium on mining could be the answer to preserving tribal communities and the forests they occupy.

Digos Rep. Yvonne Bagulat A filed a bill seeking to enforce a mining moratorium until government clarifies guidelines on ownership, free, prior and informed consent from IPs for mining operations.

Bagulat chairs the House committee on national cultural communities. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

CAUGHT IN A WEB
Gambling, like a web, catches (from silkworms producing raw robe plus forts of as high as P200 on spider fights, in Bartolo, Cebu.

Village polls return Aetas to positions

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Tribal chiefs who live among lowlanders have reclaimed their leadership in their community in Bataan through the village and youth elections that's on Monday.

The Aetas of Barangay Tuho-tuho in Dinalupihan town scored a double victory with two of their own, Elizalde Evangelista as "pamong barangay" (village chief) and Rodolfo Abraham as Sangguniang Kabataan (youth council) chair.

Results of the elections in all indigenous villages in Central Luzon are not yet known, as officials of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples have yet to collate reports.

The Aetas of Sitio, Pinipinjas, Tuho and Dambalan have around 100 (Number's 100) families and formed their population to over 1,000,000 the region, NCIP reports showed.

That the Aetas of Tuho-tuho used the elections as a way of reclaiming leadership roles is not surprising, said Dinalupihan Mayor Joel Demeyan. He does not remember any time when the Aetas resorted to violence or became confrontational in politics.

Evangelista, 48, said through his victory he managed to reverse the tradition of having village chiefs come from the ranks of Aeta.

The line of Aeta leaders, held in recent decades by Alberto Pelayo, Vic Lacsang and Rodolfo Pelayo, was cut short by Aeta Tumandak, a lowlander.

In Tuho-tuho, where there are 183 registered voters, Aetas are a majority. There are not over 10 lowlanders who have settled in the village to farm. Aetas also eke a living out of farming and gathering bamboo.

Evangelista received 82 votes and Tumandak, 56, according to Commission on Election records.

"The Aetas need more help because of their socioeconomic conditions. Now we are better represented in the council because I, an Aeta, am," Evangelista said by telephone on Thursday.

This is his first term. Evangelista said he finished Grade 2 and can read and write. On the phone, he sounded confident.

Tuho-tuho has more Aeta residents than two other indigenous communities, Bayan-basnayan and Pinipinjas, Dinalupihan said.

Some of them work in the nearby Subic Bay Freeport as forest guards, jungle survival teachers or trail guides.

Abraham, the SK chair, tied with a lowlander, Yasuel Joyce Quidenilan. Of the 23 youth voters in the village, 14 went to each candidate. There was a third ballot.

The board of canvassers settled the tie late Monday through drawing of lots that Aeta and lowlanders approved.

Negros entry in BBC contest seeking votes

By Carla Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD (2T7)—Officials are appealing for online votes from Filipinos for a pump built by a Negros foundation that brings water uphill with neither electricity nor power and which is now a finalist in the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) World Challenge.

The World Challenge is a contest put up by BBC and oil firm Shell for projects that would improve the lot of the poor where the projects are located.

The winners would receive a $20,000 grant and would be feted in ceremonies to be relevant by BBC.

Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon appealed for online votes for the project put together by the Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc. (AIDFI) based in Bacolod City in Negros Occidental.

The foundation perfected a hydraulic ram pump that is currently bringing potable water to remote villages in Negros and other parts of the country. The deadline for votes is Nov. 12. To vote for AIDFI all one has to do is go to www.theworldchallenge.co.uk and vote. AIDFI chief executive officer Anbu Khonga said.

"Iwa is ahead of the Philippines in the online voting but if Filipinos unite we can create a tsunami of votes," Khonga said.

He also urged people to share on their facebook and other social networking accounts the link and urge their friends to vote.

Earlier, Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia also issued an appeal for Bacolod people and Filipinos worldwide to vote for AIDFI.

Khonga said the hydraulic ram pump brings water uphill without fuel and electricity by model unit uses ordinary door hinges as its main moving parts.

"Using the power of a river's flow to literally push water uphill without any other energy input, it's proving to be a boon for poor villagers living in mountainous regions," BBC said in describing the AIDFI project.

Girl, 6, beaten by parents, dies

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A 6-year-old girl died Wednesday after she was allegedly beaten up by her parents in a village in this city.

Insp. Jory Calendacion, chief of the city police's women and children's complaint desk, said the girl died several minutes after her parents brought her to the Riverside Medical Center.

SK Cmtgy. city medico-legal officer who conducted an autopsy on the girl, said the child had bone bruises on her arms.

The parents, whose names the police withheld, are now detained in a police station while parricide charges are being prepared against them.

Calendacion said police were still investigating the case as they have yet to establish the motive for the beating.

She said, however, that the parents admitted beating the child.

The child used to live with her grandparents and was recently brought back to her parents.

NEWS

Enrile defends Senate Secretariat pay

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SENATE President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday defended the fat allowances given to officials of the Senate Secretariat, saying he allowed the disbursements in order to make incomes at the upper chamber be at par with those given at the House of Representatives.

"I was the one who asked [Senate Secretary Emma Lirio-Reyes] and the reason he [had] increased compliance of the Senate to what it was [in] the House of Representatives. Senate have been getting that kind of allowance over the last 15 years. I said it's unjust, it's unfair if you breach of the legislature gets due privileges. I see no reason why I should not extend it to the Senate," Enrile told reporters.

Enrile took the position amid reports that the Commission on Audit was looking into the fabulous allowances of directors in the Senate Secretariat a few weeks after the Senate took the flak for hiking cost at government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) for giving their directors and officers lavish salaries and bonuses amid far-reaching austerity measures and cutbacks in services.

Senate Majority director 2 of the Senate Secretariat, maintained that the Senate should not be compared to the GOCCs that were created to make money.

A director II in the Senate has an estimated monthly salary of P27,000 and P50,000 in monthly allowances while a director II receives a monthly salary of about P34,000 and a monthly allowances of P104,000. The biggest paycheck goes to the Senate Secretary, who gets P68,000 a month and P210,000 in monthly allowances.

Enrile maintained that the Senate Secretariat's allowances were reasonable.

"They've not getting more than others. In fact they've been getting less than I thought was justified. It was taken from the budget of the Senate at that time, there was no additional outlay from the national budget," he said.

Army won't buck release of Morong 43

THE ARMY said it will not oppose the release of the "Morong 43" if that is what President Aquino wishes, despite the "strong evidence" that they are members of the outlawed New People's Army (NPA).

"We are a very professional organization. Whatever the President's desire on this, of course we will support that. We are a team, please," said Army spokesperson Col. Jose Mario Tarriela.

After he issued an amnesty to all the officers and soldiers being tried for repeated attempts to bring down the previous Arroyo government, Mr. Aquino has been besieged with demands that he extend the same magnanimity to the group of 43 health workers who were arrested on suspicion of being NPA members in Morong, Rizal, last February.

However, not everyone in the armed forces would be "happy" if the Morong 43 are granted amnesty, Tarriela said.

Giving them a reprieve would affect the morale of troops, he said.

"We are not saying that everybody will be happy. We would be hypocritical if we say they are happy but just like same. But I said we will support whatever the decision of the President," he said.

Tarriela said it would not be necessary for the Armed Forces to appeal to the President and elevate that to granting the amnesty.

President knows

"He was properly appraised of the updates on this case. So the President knows, so we don't have to make any appeal to the President," he said.

Tarriela said the military would rather let the court decide the case, adding that the Armed Forces stand is to the people to let them know that these were actually NPAs before they are granted amnesty.

He claimed that five of the 43 had already admitted to being NPAs. He expected the others to do the same in time, he said.

Authorities have claimed that the 43 were conducting a seminar on the making of explosives when they were arrested in the Morong townhouse. They said the raiding team recovered a variety of firearms and subversive send in the making of bombs as well as subversive documents.

According to Tarriela, some of the 43 belonged to the national health bureau of the NPA while the others played secondary roles such as that of medics and logisticians.

The group's supporters claim, however, that they were indeed health workers who were attending a medical lecture. They have accused the military of subverting the Morong 43 to torture and harassment.

"It doesn't change the fact that they are NPA medics. Definitely, they are not health workers," Tarriela stressed.

She said the arrest was done legally, and that the soldiers were armed with the proper warrants.

Tarriela denied that the detainees had been tortured or that some of the women were raped, insisting that their civil rights were respected. Cynthia Balana

Judge won't let cops off the hook

CITING LACK of merit, a Quezon City court has junked the appeal of 20 policemen in the Maguindanao massacre who had asked the court to dismiss the charges against them.

In a three-page order, Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of Regional Trial Court 221 denied the motion to withhold determination of probable cause filed by the policemen assigned to Mindanao.

The order effectively affirmed the court's order dated March 24 finding the existence of probable cause for the purpose of issuing warrants of arrest against them.

"The motion is denied not only for being moot and academic but likewise for lack of merit," the order read. Aris M. Antolin

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Major fuel pipeline ordered shut down

Experts say tests point to it as source of Makati condo oil leak

By Tina G. Santos

THE MAKATI government on Thursday ordered the Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC) to shut down its pipeline as experts continue to determine the source of the oil leak that has been seeping into the basement of the West Tower condominium in Barangay Bangkal for the past three months now.

PSPC is the operator of the country's largest commercial pipeline which transports fuel products from Batangas province to Pandacan oil depots in Manila. Part of the pipeline is located along Osmena Highway, just a few meters away from the condominium.

"We have already directed the PSPC to close their pipeline indefinitely," said Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay Jr. during a press briefing.

A substance with a "high sources ration" of petrochemicals spilled from one of the exploratory wells dug by geologists and hydrologists from the University of the Philippines, part of the task force that has been conducting a probe to determine the source of the leak.

The well is located at the roundabout later of the Osmeña Highway near the condominium, about five meters away from the PSPC pipeline.

"We will continue to excavate where the petroleum came out, to ordinate physically seeing that there is a leak on the pipeline, then we have to send that oil fingerprint and all indications now point to the pipeline as the source of the leak. That's why for the safety of everyone and the people working on the site, we are already di-

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Tight security on 'Undas'; traffic rerouting set

By Miko Morales

POLICE OFFICIALS in Metro Manila have been ordered to step up security during the observance of "Undas," or All Saints' Day, on Monday.

Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), has also reminded the public to be more cautious when leaving their homes.

Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz Jr. said the PNP would deploy 85 percent of its 130,000-strong police force to provide security to the people on Nov. 1.

He said police will go on full alert starting today under its annual security plan "Undas."

Bartolome also asked people going to different cemeteries in the capital to refrain from bringing prohibited objects to the areas and suspect each other for turning the events down a bit.

Prohibited items include deadly weapons, liquor and gambling paraphernalia.

Bartolome said they would try to deploy uniformed personnel to cover all critical areas. Patrol cars will also be on standby to respond to any given situation.

Influx of vehicles

Expecting an influx of vehicles going out to nearby Southern provinces, the Skyway O&M Corp. (SOMCO) said additional personnel would be deployed along the road system, particularly to "traffic choke points" like Doña Soledad avenue in Parañaque and Dr. A. Santos Avenue in Sucat, Parañaque.

In a statement, Somco special operations chief Ichiardo Sapuyamos said tow trucks would be stationed to attempt locations to assist any vehicle encountering trouble along the roads.

Sapuyamos said motorists who might encounter a problem on the Skyway system could call their hotline at 776-7777.

The Parañaque local government said vehicles going to the Manila Memorial Park from Lopez Avenue should take the middle and outer lanes, while jeepneys going to Sucat Highway should take the inner lane.

Jeepneys bound for Sucat from Sauyo Highway could turn to Fernando Avenue then turn right to Aguirre Avenue inside BF Homes then right at H. Eusebio and exit at Lopez Avenue.

Modified traffic

The Makati government, for its part, advised motorists that some roads will be closed and a traffic rerouting scheme will be implemented starting Saturday.

Starting 6 a.m. on Dec. 31, the following roads will be closed: Kasilo Avenue, between J.P. Rizal and Metropolitan Avenue; Kalayaan Avenue, between Zapote and Hizamar Gavino (formerly Reposo); and Vito Cruz (extension), between South Avenue and Zapote.

J.P. Rizal will be made two-way on the same date and time from Guadalupe Nichs up to Trabajo Street in Barangay Olympia. Westbound, Kipposdeus Street will be made one-way towards A.P. Reyes Avenue. On the opposite direction, J.P. Rizal Avenue from Pasong Tamo will be made one-way up to Tamo Street, eastbound.

Traffic along Metropolitan Avenue from Apolinario Mabini to Nicanor Garcia (Bergman) will also be one-way.

By 12 midnight of Dec. 31, these roads will also be closed: Nicanor Garcia, between J.P. Rizal Avenue and Kalayaan; J.B. Molina, between J.P. Rizal and Kalayaan; Gukaong, between J.P. Rizal and Metropolitan; Bhutan, between South Avenue and Zapote; Dapat, between South Avenue and Zapote; and Sun Street, between South Avenue and Zapote.

NLEx, SCTEx traffic

Meanwhile, traffic at the South Luzon and the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressways (NLEx and SCTEx) is also expected to rise.

The Tollways Thursday "full-ways Management Corp. (TMC), which operates both highways, said it would deploy additional personnel starting Friday evening in preparation for the expected influx of vehicles.

About 156,000 people pass by NLEx on regular weekdays while 23,000 use SCTEx, MMC reports by Tina G. Santos, Paolo G. Montecillo and Cynthia D. Baluma

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Celdran pleads not guilty

CELDRAN in police precinct Thursday

TOURIST guide Carlos Celdran denied his Jose Rizal bust arose for his arraignment yesterday at the Manila Metropolitan Trial Court (MTC) where he pleaded not guilty to the charge of offending religious feelings, including not guilty before Manila MTC Branch 4 Judge Alfonso Ruiz. Celdran told the tribunal that he is "blameless" the fact that he did not say anything offensive," when he hoisted a placard reading "Damasa" disrupting a Sept. 30 ecumenical service at the Manila Cathedral. He said that he wore his Jose Rizal dude so the public would not forget his message on the necessity of the passage of the reproductive health bill. "I also wore my Jose Rizal costume because it's the heroism," he laughingly pointed out. His supporters, clad in shirts marked "Damasa" and "Yuna the Bill" attended the arraignment. Celdran was arrested when he disrupted a solemn ecclesiastical Mass at the Manila Cathedral being said by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales. Jeannette I. Andrade

Revillame posts P426-M bond

TV-host Willie Revillame on Wednesday posted a P426 million surety bond before a Quezon City court to post the writ requiring him to appear before the court to face charges against ABS-CBN is still being litigated. Judge Lucilla Datiles of Regional Trial Court Branch 84 last week ordered Revillame to post the bond representing the principal condemnation amount being sought by ABS-CBN. The TV host, formerly of ABS-CBN and now affiliated with TV5, ordered the court to judicially confirm the termination of his contract with the former and sought P11 million in damages. In reply, ABS-CBN said Revillame for breaching his contract which was valid until 2011. Julie M. Aurelio

Cops, carjack group in shootout

A SUSPECTED member of a big-time carjack group was killed and another was wounded in a shootout between operatives from the Highway Patrol Group and the suspects in noon yesterday in Quezon City. Chief Supt. Rodolfo Mascuti said the gun battle started at Road 3 and extension in Project 6. Mascuti identified the deadly as Albert de la Cruz and the wounded as Eduardo Fernandez, allegedly members of the Raymond Dominguez Group, a notorious car robbery gang operating in Luzon. He also said a taxi driver was hurt when the Mitsubishi Montero Sylde number NIF 9800 the suspects were riding smashed into the cab driver. It upon several times and landed on its body in a bid to escape from the authorities. Aaroy C. Carvajal

9 fratmen hunted

HOMICIDE investigators are hunting down nine members of the Tau Gamma Phi Fraternity who were responsible for the hog-tying death of a hornage neophyte whose body was placed inside a drum, weighted, then dumped on the Pasig River in Manila. A birth suspect identified as Herman Paleros, 20, of Pandacaan, pounced in Binondo, has been charged by the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section investigators before the city prosecutor's office with violation of Republic Act 8049 or the anti-hazing law, after he voluntarily surrendered Wednesday. Paleros was positively identified by a survivor in the fatal hazing, where Reed Sonja Jr. 17, a student of the Alternative Learning System, of Pateros Compound in Binondo was killed. Jeannette I. Andrade

UE, UP in debate semifinals

THE UE College of Law debating team braces itself for a big showdown against UP Diliman debating team in the ANC-CNN News Channel's (ANC) "Square Off: The CNC Law Debates" at 7 tonight. The UE and UP will be the protagonists in the semifinals of the top rating show.

WORKERS from Piri Philippine Industrial Corporation dig near the pipeline along Ormoc-Highway dawn of Thursday.

Major fuel pipeline . . .

From page A21

testing the PIPC to shut down the pipe," Binay said.

Apart from the pipeline, reports earlier were looking at two other possible sources of the leak: the Mon Tower condominium itself and the buried fuel tank or metallic object as suggested by a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey commissioned by the PIPC.

"But both the Mon Tower and the fuel tanks have already been ruled out. Now with the discovery of petroleum coming out from a portion near the pipeline, there's reason for us to believe that the leak is coming from their pipe," Binay stressed.

"And I think it's not a question of whether or not they're willing to shut it down. We're talking here of the danger that the situation poses to the lives and property in the community," he said, adding that they have earlier warned the company of such possibility.

"We've already discussed it with them that there may be a possibility that they will be asked to shut down the pipeline. And we told them they should already have a contingency plan on how to fund gasoline supply for Metro Manila once it happens," the mayor explained. "They cannot put the blame on the city government because they have been forewarned.

Sought for comment, Efren Imperio, PIPC's pipeline right-of-way division manager, said they have not yet received the official communication from Makati City Hall directing them to shut down their pipeline.

"But we have enthusiastically shut it down since last night," he told Inquirer over the phone. "We've also been conducting excavations works to determine the source of the leak. As of this time, the petroleum leak was apparently spilling from the holes where the authorities have dug up, not from the pipeline itself. We cannot make any conclusion unless we see the leak actually coming from the pipeline."

The PIPC official said he was not in authority to say whether it's possible to shut down the pipeline indefinitely.

"It has to be discussed by the Department of Energy and the oil companies. But it will definitely affect the oil supply since the pipeline transports about 60 percent of Metro Manila's petroleum needs 24 hours a day," Imperio added.

Cop accused of killing Japanese tourist three years ago cleared

By Jeannette Andrade

A POLICEMAN accused of killing a Japanese tourist in Manila three years ago was cleared of the charge yesterday after the court found discrepancies in the testimonies of two female witnesses.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 27 Judge Teresa Arsenia Irani PGO Kelly Hamlet, assigned with the National Capital Region Police Office Regional Security Support Group (NCRPO-RSSG), not guilty of the June 23, 2007 murder of Kazuyuki Hashimoto, who was shot to death at the corner of Mabini and Arquiza Streets in Ermita.

Habil was detained at the Manila Police District (MPD) Ermita station 1 and was among the first to arrive at the site of the murder when he was accused of the crime.

Soriano in her 15-page decision ruled: "the [prosecution] states that a judgment of conviction must be predicated on the strength of evidence for the prosecution and not on the weakness of the defense. The trial court cannot merely depend upon the probabilities and improbabilities of alleged events. It must determine whether or not the alleged events actually happened based on the evidences adduced."

Questions of veracity

Apart from questions on the veracity of the testimonies given by two witnesses, the court noted doubts on the authenticity of a cartographic sketch, purportedly of Habil, presented by the prosecution. The court also found strange that a .45 caliber pistol, which was recovered at the crime scene and allegedly used in the killing, was never submitted as evidence nor was it identified by the witnesses as the murder weapon.

Irenan stated in her decision, "After a careful evaluation and examination, the court finds that there are significant facts and circumstances that cast serious doubt on the veracity of the testimonies of the witnesses [Kentaro de Leon and Kelly delos Santos]."

Their testimonies were weighed against the statements given before the court by a credible witness, Edgar Cruzcosa, who was a parking attendant and actually saw the fatal act's killing.

"The presence of Edgar Cruzcosa at the crime scene before, during, and after the killing of the victim cannot be doubted," the judge stressed.

The judge observed that De Leon's testimony on the sequence of events differed from Cruzcosa's version.

While Cruzcosa testified that Hashimoto was astride a motorcycle when he was shot, De Leon claimed the did not see any motorcycle. His testimony that the Japanese man had been shot as close range was further belied by the autopsy findings on the absence of powder burns on the victim's body.

Not believable

"The testimony of Kaimee [de Leon] also suffers defect. By her own admission, she saw the accused for the first time that night of June 23, 2007, according to her, accosted your unarmed, a ball cap. She particularly took note of his eyes, they were 'malamlam [droopy].' The court feels that it is really not believable that she could have observed such details considering that it was night time," Irenan noted.

The judge further observed the lack of objectivity in the manner by which the police investigators of the Manila Police District asked the witnesses to identify the accused. The female witnesses contradicted each other with one saying there was a police line-up, where Habil was identified, and the other stating that there was none and that the policeman was already in the holding cell of the homicide section when the police investigator pointed at Habil and asked if he was the gunman.

Contradictory

"As observed by the court, the statements of prosecution's principal witnesses obtain contradict each other. This places a huge question in the veracity of their accounts," Irenan emphasized.

She concluded, "Accusation is not synonymous with guilt. It is incumbent on the prosecution to demonstrate that culpability lies. Accused's freedom is fortified only if the requisite quantum of proof necessary for conviction be in existence. His guilt must be shown beyond reasonable doubt."

In its pursuit to continuously satisfy the needs of the consumers, Puregold introduces a new retail format, the PUREGOLD EXTRA, located along Sto. Rosario-Sta. Rosa-Tarlac Road in Ayala Pampanga. PUREGOLD EXTRA is a discounter store carrying only the best-selling items across all categories at an extremely low price. It is tailored to all small retailers such as sari-sari store and budget conscious homemakers.

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Obama voters switching to Republicans, poll finds

CRITICAL SHIFTS of the coalition that delivered President Barack Obama to the White House in 2008 and gave Democrats control of Congress in 2006 are switching their allegiance to the Republicans in the final phase of the midterm congressional elections, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

Republicans have wiped out the advantage held by Democrats in recent election cycles among women, Roman Catholics, less-affluent Americans and independents. All of those groups broke for Obama in 2008 and for non-presidential Democrats when they grabbed both chambers from the Republicans four years ago, according to exit polls.

If women choose Republicans over Democrats in House races on Tuesday, it will be the first time they have done so since exit polls began tracking the breakdown in 1982.

The poll provides a glimpse of a nation so politically disquieted and disappointed in its current trajectory that 57 percent of the registered voters surveyed said they were more willing to take a chance this year on a candidate with little political experience. More than a quarter of them said they were even willing to back a candidate who holds some views that "seem extreme."

On the issue most driving the campaign, the economy, Republicans have erased the traditional advantage held by Democrats as the party seen as better able to create jobs; the parties are now even on that measure. By a wide margin, Republicans continue to be seen as the party better able to reduce the federal budget deficit.

The public wants both sides to compromise, although it thinks that Obama will try to do so more than Republicans will. Yet for all of its general unhappiness, the electorate does not seem to be offering any clear guidance for Obama and the incoming Congress—whatever controls it—on the big issues.

While almost nine in 10 respondents said they considered government spending to be an important issue, and more than half said they favored smaller government offering fewer services, there was no consensus on what programs should be cut. There was clear opposition to addressing one of the government's biggest long-term challenges—the growing cost of paying Social Security benefits—by raising the retirement age or reducing benefits for future workers. Support for one of Obama's main economic proposals—raising taxes on income above $250,000 a year—has declined substantially over the course of this year.

OBAMA

Although Republicans have managed to keep Democrats on the defensive over the health care plan they enacted this year, the poll also shows Americans remain divided over Republican promises to repeal it. Forty-five percent said the law should stand, and 45 percent said it should go.

The poll does not measure the strength of individual candidates in specific districts, where idiosyncratic factors like voter turnout and even weather can affect results. And the poll, taken nationally on Thursday through Sunday with interviews of 1,171 adults, did not ask about 126 House contests, as 14 states do not have Senate races this year. (The poll had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.)

But it does offer a clear indication of party strength at the end of what has been a particularly intense and hard-fought midterm campaign with story lines that were thin ground for Obama and his party.

Overall, 48 percent of likely voters said they would vote for Republicans and 40 percent said they would support Democrats.

A higher percentage of Americans continues to have a more favorable opinion of the Democratic Party than of the Republican Party, with 46 percent favoring Democrats and 39 favoring Republicans. But the Republicans' favorability rating in the New York Times/CBS poll is at its highest level since September 2008.

New York Times News Service

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Chinese build fastest-ever supercomputer, displace US

A CHINESE scientific research center has built the fastest supercomputer ever made, replacing the United States as maker of the swiftest machine, and giving China bragging rights as a technology superpower.

The computer, known as Tianhe-1A, has 1.4 times the horsepower of the current top computer, which is at a national laboratory in Tennessee, as measured by the standard test used to gauge how well the systems handle mathematical calculations, said Jack Dongarra, a University of Tennessee computer scientist who maintains the official supercomputer rankings.

Although the official list of the top 500 fastest machines, which comes out every six months, is not due to be released by Dongarra until next week, he said the Chinese computer blows away the existing No. 1 machine." he added, "We don't close the books until Nov 1, but I would say it is unlikely we will see a system that is faster."

Officials from the Chinese research center, the National University of Defense Technology, are expected to reveal the computer's performance on Thursday in a conference in Beijing. The center says it is "under the dual supervision of the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Education."

The race to build the fastest supercomputer has become a source of national pride as Chinese machines are valued for their ability to solve problems critical to national interests in areas like defense, energy, finance and science. Supercomputing technology also finds its way into mainstream business; oil and gas companies use it to find reservoirs and Wall Street traders use it for super-quick automated trades. Procter & Gamble even uses supercomputers to make sure that Pringles get to your eager mouth in perfect condition.

And typically, research centers with large supercomputers are magnets for top scientific talent, adding significance to the presence of the machines well beyond just creating through calculations.

Over the last decade, the Chinese have steadily inched up in the rankings of supercomputers. Tianhe-1A stands as the culmination of billions of dollars in investment and scientific development, as China has gone from a computing afterthought to a world technology superpower.

New York Times News Service

Nissan to recall 2.1M cars over faulty engine

TOKYO—Japan's chief lawyer nationalize Nissan Motor said on Thursday it was recalling more than 2.1 million cars globally due to a faulty engine control system.

Nissan said exchange free defective parts on certain models, as the flaw may "cause the engine to stall while running", the company said in a report to the Japanese transport ministry.

In Japan alone, Nissan will recall a total of 604,750 vehicles of nine models, including the Cube, March and Tiida, produced domestically between 2005 and 2009, the spokesman said.

Nissan will also recall 781,528 vehicles in North America, 254,150 in Europe and 196,869 in the China and Taiwan markets because of the same system trouble, the spokesman added.

No accident has been reported in connection with the problem, another spokesman said, adding: "We will replace the parts in other countries as well, following the regulations of each country."

Nissan, which is part-owned by Renault of France, separately said it would recall another 1,300 cars in Japan because of insufficient welding of rear stabilizer springs, "which may come out in the worst case." AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Ex-Argentina President Kirchner dies of heart attack

KIRCHNER/AFP/File photo

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Former President Nestor Kirchner, who steered Argentina out of crisis and political trauma with a leftist populism that thrilled the poor and enraptured the wealthy, died suddenly of a heart attack on Wednesday with his wife, President Cristina Fernandez, by his side.

His death, at 60, abruptly ends a drama the couple had to keep succeeding each other and holding onto power for many years. With next year's elections looming, Fernandez will have to run for reelection without her closest adviser; the charismatic party leader who kept a tight lid on the country's unruly political scene.

Kirchner had a history of heart trouble, undergoing emergency surgery on his carotid artery in February and an angioplasty in September, but refused to slow down, campaigning daily to bat the political groundwork for reelection and the presidency by him or his wife.

The news of his death shocked Argentina, who turned out by the thousands in Kirchner's honor, filling the Plaza de Mayo around the presidential palace Wednesday night.

"He's someone who for the first time in our democracy turned his politics toward the workers and the people. That's why so many are here. The phrase shows that the people will support and deepen his model," said Juan Pablo Mazzieri, 39. Fernandez, he added, "has the capacity to go it alone with all the people's support."

But Kirchner's death leaves a gaping hole in Argentine politics.

Wilde Fernandez is a powerful figure in his own right, Kirchner was seen as the heir to Argentine Gov. Juan Domingo Peron, the legendary strongman whose adventures for modern-thought government into the middle class. Also like Peron, he tolerated few challengers, keeping in check the nation's labor unions, service groups, governors and mayors — political players who move thousands of voters and whose allegiance is vital to maintaining public order. AP

Indonesia counts costs, helps survivors after dual disasters

JAKARTA, INDONESIA —Indonesia moved to count the costs and help survivors on Wednesday after a tsunami and volcanic eruptions struck separate parts of the country, killing at least 340 people and driving tens of thousands from their homes.

In the worst-hit region, the Mentawai Islands off western Sumatra, health and rescue workers managed to reach only some isolated areas nearly two days after a powerful magnitude-7.7 underwater quake sent a wave more than 12 feet high crashing into coastal villages.

The tsunami has killed at least 311 people and left 279 missing, according the National Disaster Management Agency. Almost 16,000 people have been displaced, officials said.

At the same time, aid workers in about 750 miles to the east, on the island of Java, scrambled to provide water, food and medicine to tens of thousands of people driven from their homes after eruptions of the Mount Merapi volcano killed at least 29, obliterated houses in layers of hot gas, and spewed ash and debris over the surrounding densely populated countryside.

Ade Edward, head of operations of the Disaster Management Agency in West Sumatra province, acknowledged that Indonesia's tsunami warning system did not cover the Mentawais but said this was because of the short time it would take for a wave caused by an undersea quake along the nearby Sunda Trench to reach shore.

"There is no technology that could give a warning to under-five minutes," he said.

Bad weather and powerful waves delayed efforts to reach many of the survivors in the Mentawais, Edward said.

"All along the coast, people have fled up into the hills because quakes are happening nearly on the hour," he said. "These quakes are forcing us to set up temporary shelters. It's really tough work."

Ships and helicopters had been sent to the impoverished islands, along with medical teams, shelters, medicine and rice — ethnicity-generating images, Edward said. Downed communications systems that radio was the only way to communicate with many areas, he said.

He said that some of the dead were local fishermen. New York Times News Service

A WONDER shows a statue of Buddha covered with volcanic ash from Mount Merapi eruptions at the Pawon Buddhist temple in Magelang, Central Java, Indonesia on Oct. 28.

The 1964 Aston Martin DB5 car used in James Bond films "Goldfinger" and "Thunderball"

Do be careful with it, James: Bond's car sold at $4 million

LONDON—James Bond's famous Aston Martin car, complete with gadgets including an ejector seat and revolving number plates, sold at an auction in London on Wednesday for a lower-than-expected $4 million.

Hopes were high that the 1964 silver Aston Martin DB5 would smash the $5-million barrier. But in the end the car driven by Sean Connery when he played the fictional British spy fell short.

American silver screen star Connery got behind the wheel of the car when he played Bond in the films "Goldfinger" (1964) and "Thunderball" (1965).

A spokesman for RM Auctions, which had dubbed the vehicle the most famous car in the world, said that the sale price was "still a lot of money and I don't think anyone's disappointed." The auctioneers did not release the identity of the buyer, who paid £2.5 million ($4.1 million) for the James Bhond.

The Bond movie car is fitted with the full complement of specialized "Q-Branch" gadgets.

The car is also equipped with machine guns, bullet-proof shield, tracking device, removable roof panel, oil slick sprayer and smoke screen, all controlled by "toggles and switches hidden in the centre armrest."

"The machine guns, as you can see, do come out of their housings," said Dale, in the car. I know they don't shoot bullets, but then again, I haven't tried." Dale Hunt, a car specialist for the auctioneers, said. AP

Britain's top spook makes first public speech

LONDON—Britain's top spy makes his first public speech by a serving UK espionage chief on Thursday when the country's former spymaster will be introduced by the Queen's representative at the London Mansion House.

Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) chief John Sawers will speak at a live televised gathering of academics, officials and others invited by the Society of Editors to a keynote address on journalism's many ethical challenges and relations with the government.

Sawers, a career diplomat, had previously been the ambassador to the United Nations, the foreign Office's political director, and also worked as an envoy to Baghdad and as foreign policy adviser to former prime minister Tony Blair.

The move to more public accountability by SIS, also known as MI6, is a big cultural shift for a service that 20 years ago was so secret the government would not publicly admit its existence, even if it still enjoys more anonymity than its close US ally, the Central Intelligence Agency.

The creation an intelligence officials to be more transparent has many roots... pressure from lawmakers to prevent abuses and improve performance, public concern over surveillance by police and local government, and a need by all arms of the intelligence community to make their work known so as to widen the pressure of recruitment.

SAWERS/AP/File photo

SIS, which gathers secret intelligence overseas, was first publicly acknowledged by the government in 1992, its antecedents.

The opening up of Britain's intelligence community gathered pace in 2006 when the then head of the MI5 domestic security service, Eliza Manningham-Buller, appeared in public to make a speech to academics and journalists at a university campus.

Her successor Jonathan Evans has made at least four speeches since then. On Dec. 22, the head of the Government Communications Headquarters, Iain Lobban, made the first speech ever delivered in public by a serving head of the listening post.

In 2006 SIS introduced job adverts in newspapers and in 2009 launched its website. It has placed job adverts on radio. Reuters

In US, meningitis booster is recommended for teens

ATLANTA—Federal vaccine advisers recommended on Wednesday that 16-year-olds be given a booster dose of a vaccine against meningococcal meningitis.

The reason for the recommendation is that two popular vaccines against the disease do not seem to work as well as hoped. Instead of providing 10 years of protection, they may work for only five years or less.

That is not long enough to protect teenagers and young adults through the riskiest years because the vaccine is usually given at 11 or 12 years of age. The hope is that a booster dose at 16 would yield protection through the first few years of college, when outbreaks occur most often.

Members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices debated whether to recommend that the first dose simply be delayed by three or four years or to add a second dose. The vaccine is already $1.00 a dose, and the discussion was, in addition, a second dose ensures that every death averted would be expensive. Federal officials estimated that while the current strategy prevents nine deaths each year, delaying the first dose would prevent 14 deaths and adding a second dose would prevent 24.

Since the federal government pays for about half of all vaccines, the additional cost would be partly borne by taxpayers. The committee voted 6-5 to support a booster, but for the recommendation to take effect, the Department of Health and Human Services would need to endorse it, which generally happens but not always.

Dr. Janet Englund, a committee member from Seattle Children's Hospital, said delaying the vaccine by three or four years would result in fewer teenagers being vaccinated. A smaller share of 16-year-olds is vaccinated compared with preteens, she noted. And because teenagers stay close out of high school, she said, "by moving the age up, I very strongly fear we're going to be missing as a risk period."

Dr. Jessica Bettes, a liaison representative to the committee from the American College Health Association, said that if the vaccines were truly as ineffective after five years, many meningitis cases would be popping up as college campuses. New York Times News Service

Nepalese peacekeeping base may be source of Haiti cholera

MIREBALAIS, HAITI—UN troops in Nepal took samples of foul-smelling waste trickling behind a Nepalese peacekeeping base toward an infected river system on Wednesday, following persistent accusations that excrement from the newly arrived unit caused the cholera epidemic that has infected more than 4,000 people in the earthquake-ravaged Caribbean.

Associated Press journalists who were visiting the base witnessed what happened upon the investigators. Mission spokesman Vincenzo Pugliese confirmed after the visit that the military team was looking for cholera—the first public acknowledgment that the 12,000-member force is directly investigating allegations to have played a role in the outbreak.

Meanwhile the epidemic continued to spread, with cases confirmed in two new departments in Haiti's north and northwest, said UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs spokeswoman Imogen Wall. At least 303 people have died and 4,722 have hospitalized.

International aid workers and the United Nations are forming their efforts to stemming the spread of the outbreak, which was first noted on Oct. 20. But Haitians are increasingly turning their attention to its origins. How did a disease which has not been seen in Haiti since the early 20th century suddenly erupt in the countryside?

The mission strongly denies its base was a cause of the infection. Pugliese and civilian engineers collected samples from the base on Friday which tested negative for cholera and the mission's military force commander ordered the additional tests to confirm. He said no members of the Nepalese battalion, whose current members arrived in early October for a six-month rotation, have the disease.

The unit's commander declined to comment.

Local politicians including a powerful senator and the mayor of Mirebalais are pointing the finger at the Nepalese peacekeeping base, which is perched above a source of the Meille River, a tributary to the Artibonite River on Haiti's central plateau. The Artibonite River has been the source of most infections, which remain concentrated in the central area surrounding it—nearly down river from the mouth of the Meille.

"They are located exactly where the epidemic started," Mirebalais Mayor Lagrenee Lochard, who is also running for Senate, told the AP from mid-Nepal. "It's clear that the Nepalese are responsible for this."

Cholera is pandemic in much of the world but almost unheard of in the Western Hemisphere; it is endemic to Nepal, which suffered outbreaks this summer. A recent article in the Japanese Journal of Infectious Diseases almost corroborates Dr. Zimbis's claim that strain is common and description was general to be a "smoking gun" that would identify the strain's country of origin.

The CDC is not directly investigating the base, spokesman Tim McClaughlin said.

The UN issued a statement on Sunday defending the base. It said the Nepalese unit there now serves united empire tanks built in US Environmental Protection Agency standards, required every week by a private company to a landfill site a mile 250 meters from the river.

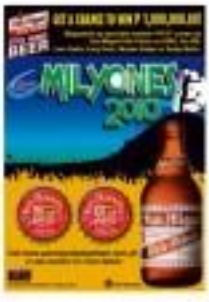
But those are not the conditions AP found on Wednesday.

A buried septic tank inside the fence was overflowing and the stench of excrement wafted in the air. Workers pipes jutting out from the back sprayed liquid. One, positioned directly behind latrines, poured out a rushing black flow from frayed plastic pipe which dribbled down to the river where people were bathing. AP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ **Pacquiao** helps Arum's close pal in Vegas political rally /A32

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy B. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Amit whips 3 foreign foes, gains Final 4



CURRY Kevin Korean Kim Ga-young breaks against compatriot Park Eun-ji.

Pinay pool ace faces Kim next

by Mayong R. Castillo

RUSELIE AMIT struggled off her first loss in the Women's World 10-Ball championship by handling off three foreign foes yesterday to reach the Final Four of the $75,000 event at the Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas.

The defending champion Amit opened her campaign in the knockout phase with an 8-2 rout of Canadian Joan Sobers, scraped past Chinese Bao Yu, 8-7, before whipping Lene Kjoersvik of Norway 8-2, to clinch a semifinal slot before an appreciative homestead crowd.

Next up for Amit is savvy Kim Ga-young of Korea, the former two-time World 9-Ball champion who lost the opening frame to compatriot Park Eun-ji before scoring an 8-1 victory.

The last two Final four protagonists will come from the winners of two remaining quarterfinal matches still being played at presstime last night.

Race-to-9 semifinals

Kelly Fisher of Britain and Li Jia of China were disputing one semifinal slot while Rinna Lizt of Ireland and Jeanette Ouchan of Australia were battling for the other.

The semifinals, starting at 2 p.m. today, will be race-to-11 affairs.

Amit, who lost to Taiwanese Tan Mei-chen in their battle for Group 13 top honors Wednesday displayed her toughest form yet, although she conceded that all the breaks went her way in her semifinal-clinching win against Kjoersvik.

"I was very lucky (in this match)," Amit said in Filipino, as she celebrated exchanging yelling gallery. "I hope you all come back tomorrow and again give me the luck that I had today."

But luck was also on her side against Han, the slender Chinese who came within two balls of downing the pint-sized Filipina the door to their quarterfinal clash.

Confidence-boosting win

Amit made the most out of Tai's miss on the yellow-striped No. 9 in the 14th rack to tie it before wrapping up the win in the 15th.

That victory boosted Amit's confidence no end as she won four of the first five racks against Kjoersvik, an internet blonde from Trondheim who has won 12 Norwegian Open titles but didn't match a chance against Amit.

Amit took a 6-1 lead before Kjoersvik won her second rack after Amit scratched on the break and she converted on an easy 2-10 combination.

The Norwegian, who edged Taiwan's Tan Hu-yun, 8-7, to get to the quarterfinals, had a chance to erase deficit, making three game deuce in a row before scratching on the 9-ball.

"It was almost a pity to watch her because she was scratching a lot of shots," Amit said. "That's how lucky I was in this match."

Ginebra, Air21 shoot for 3rd straight victories

By Musong R. Castillo

BRGY/GINEBRA GUERRERO and BLEZ shoot for their third straight victories against opponents here today in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ginebra, with its star-studded guard rotation delivering, is slightly favored over Blaze or Shine in the 7:30 p.m. contest.

Odds also favor the Air21 Express in their 5 p.m. date with the Red Bull Energy Boosters.

The Kings have won by an average of 15 points in their victories over Brenden Bull and the defending champion Derby Ace Llamados.

Air21, on the other hand, has brought those two quality teams to the Gatorade and the Alaska hero, giving the Express a psychological edge they need against the Energy Boosters.

Willie Miller has been consistent and Mark Cagulio is slowly rounding out to top form again, making the Kings a dangerous side even without the presence of a reliable big man role.

Ginebra has also been getting solid performances from Jervy Cruz, Jeff Chan and Gabby Espinas.

Air21 is also getting solid performances from

St. Paul, DLSZ golf bets ahead

ST. PAUL'S College and De La Salle Zobel surged into the lead in the girls' division once unchallenged Princess Ingared and Gabriel Manotoc passed individual play in their respective classes of the resumption of the 1st SCISO Interschool golf tournament at the Tat Filipinas Golf Club in San Pedro, Laguna.

Daniela Uy fired 40 points and Diane Legaspi added a 41 as St. Paul posted 94 for a 23-point lead over De La Salle-Taft in Girls 1.

With Pauline del Rosario sinking a 45 and Bernice Oliveros Escudero adding a 38, De La Salle-Zobel finished On first round with a 79, just three up on Assumption which drew a 39 from Avanka Cordo and a 37 from Gabriella Bravo.

Mia Legaspi, who notched a fourth title to the US Kids World Championships in Orlando, North Carolina, last August, scored 38 but shot 39ers would only shoot 25 and the St. Paul's pair led 13 behind DLSZ with 6161.

Playing for St. Francis of Assisi, reigning Asian champion Ingared turned in the tournament's best score so far of 73 to pace the individual race to Girls 1, two ahead of Uy and six or Legaspi.

Aurora Waldorf Adeaal of San Rosa, Laguna, had an individual leader in Montessori scheme 66 was two better than the 42 of Brent's Christopher Hopp. Montessori Antonio of Sacred Heart School led Philgets 2 with his 46, 9 more than his 4Sth of Elizabeth Ateneo.

The next round will be played on the Navy course on Nov. 7 and 14.

Pasargard make dramatic UFL entrance

Pasargard provided the perfect platform for an entertaining afternoon, triumphing over the usually solid Laos FC in unfavorable rainwater conditions. It started off ground for the Iranian visits, who were reacting 2-0 at half-time despite having to play most of the period with only ten men.

Although in an unfamiliar position, coach Jovanie Villacrucis's team talk at the interval proved to be effective, as Laos came back strong in the second half. Facing a two-goal deficit, the determined side picked up the pace and made it difficult for Pasargard to enjoy any sort of prolonged possession of the ball. Their pressure paid immediate dividends, as they clawed their way down, before going ahead 3-2 with less than a quarter of the game to go. While it seemed Laos had completed a dramatic turnaround, the Iranians had other ideas, as they pressed forward and capitalized on some shoddy defending to equalize. Minutes later, with the game just about to end, Pasargard breached the Laos defense one last time, announcing their arrival to the LBC-UFL Cup with an incredible comeback.

Loyola ATR KimEng Pain comfortably dispatched of Manila Africa in the second game at 3pm, strolling to a 4-2 win despite losing the more than Evan Quince Archuris Orland Feright, who played simultaneously, marked their debut under the reign of new coach Jose Ramon Garcia in promising fashion, defeating new club Inter Manila 1-0 in a tight and cagey affair.

The United Football League is in full swing on Halloween, with four games taking place at the Alabang Country Club, and three at the Nomads Sports Club. Global Smartmatic will be making their long-awaited debut, while the always competitive Armed Forces clubs Navy and Army Fritz and Macrizt will also be kicking off their respective campaigns. Meanwhile, Loyola ATR KimEng will test their 100% record when they look home with the mighty Union. Plenty of action is in store for everyone on October 31, so don't miss out! Check the www.footballalliance.ph website for complete fixtures. This is the UFL. It's OUR Game!

SPORTS

FREDDY Sanchez typifies San Francisco's stirring prowess.

Giants trip Rangers in W. Series opener

SAN FRANCISCO—The opening game of the World Series was supposed to be a pitching duel but batters ruled supreme as the San Francisco Giants beat the Texas Rangers, 11-7, to take an early lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Wednesday match-up of aces Cliff Lee of Texas and San Francisco's Tim Lincecum fell a final batsman shy totaled 38 runs and 23 hits, including 10 doubles.

"We faced a great pitcher tonight and he wasn't quite on top of his game, and Timmy wasn't quite as sharp either," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

San Francisco made a shaky start and trailed 2-0 before denting Lee's aura of invincibility with two runs in the third inning followed by a six-run outburst in the fifth.

Freddy Sanchez led-date doubles among his four hits, while Juan Uribe hit a three-run homer off reliever Darren O'Day that capped the scoring in the fifth and made it winner of Lincecum.

The Giants scored three more runs in the eighth for some breathing room, which came in handy as Texas rallied for three runs in the ninth before closer Brian Wilson made last Elvider fly out to right to end the game.

Lee had posted a 3-0 record this postseason with a microscopic 0.75 earned run average after going 4-0 for the Philadelphia Phillies in the 2009 playoffs.

But the crafty left-hander failed to hold down the Giants despite being handed a 2-0 lead after two innings.

An RBI double to left by Sanchez in the third inning sliced the lead in half and Buster Posey's single tied the game.

The Giants sent 11 batters to the plate in the game-breaking sixth inning that drained Lee from the mound.

Back-to-back doubles by Andres Torres and Sanchez scored one run.

Game Two will be in San Francisco on Thursday with Matt Cain starting for the Giants against CJ Wilson of the Rangers. Reuters

POC, NSAs accountable for gov't aid

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee and the national sports associations under its wings should be held accountable for every peso spent from the coffers of the government.

Philippine Sports Commission Chair Richie Garcia received this piece of advice from top officials of the International Olympic Committee and the Association of National Olympic Committees during the 1st World Olympic Sport Convention held in Acapulco, Mexico, recently.

Garcia said the IOC and Anoc encouraged all NOCs and the NSAs under it to practice accounting but at the same time be held liable for the financial support from the government.

The PSC chief arrived Wednesday afternoon after joining POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco in Jr. and POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros in the Oct. 18-24 convention attended by IOC president Jacques Rogge and 200 NOCs from around the globe.

"We can't run the affairs of the POC including their selection of athletes," said Garcia. "But if they ask for funding, the PSC has the right to demand accountability."

Garcia said Anoc is pushing for government support in sports. The PSC is the sports-funding arm of the government. Jane Shaw-ero

Big 3 deliver as Heat overpower 76ers; Cavs win

PHILADELPHIA—Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh experienced their first win with Miami, with the Heat beating the Philadelphia 76ers, 97-87, on Wednesday.

Playing with purpose a night after an 88-80 season opening loss to a hyped showdown with Boston, the Heat's star tandem still did not look comfortable playing with each other, with only Wade—30 points—looking particularly sharp against the Sixers. James scored 16 points and Bosh had 15.

The Heat hit three straight triples in the third quarter to raise their eight-point halftime lead. The Sixers, were on a 15-3 run late in the fourth to make it competitive.

Cavaliers 93, Celtics 87

In Cleveland, J.J. Hickson scored 21 points and Daniel Gibson added 16—all in the second half—to overhaul an 11-point deficit in the third quarter and help Cleveland to an unlikely victory over Boston. AP

Complete results:

Cleveland 93, Boston 87; New Jersey 103, Detroit 88; Miami 97, Philadelphia 87; NY Knicks 98, Toronto 92; New Orleans 98, Milwaukee 89; Sacramento 113, Minnesota 94; Oklahoma City 106, Chicago 86; Orlando 94, Memphis 104; Dallas 103, Charlotte 92; Denver 113, Utah 88; San Antonio 105, Indiana 100; Golden State 118, Houston 110; Portland 101, LA Clippers 88; Phoenix

The fog's thicker; Pinoys must be cooking

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Della

ST ELS this San Francisco Giants face the Texas Rangers in the World Series, there oldage old PR game will crank into California's prime time psyche in a single pitch.

Pride, food and humor of the self-depreciating variety.

Opening night's pitcher said 11-7 victory for the Giants, 20-year-old Tim Lincecum, is one-hundred Filipino—a descendant of the De Asis family of Bellevue, Washington.

A CJ Young Award recipient for two years running, Tim's the darling of cabal Filipino baseball followers in the home of Dante country—the Golden State's San Francisco Bay Area.

A country-of-a-million-plus Filipinos, who call that geographical name as everyone east of the Aegean Filipino-communities outside the Philippines. More than 2.5 million Filipinos live in the United States, many of them in California.

* * *

Tenor Jesse the New York Barbara while the Giants outhunted the Philadelphia Phillies to possess what media organizations call another East Coast metropolitan to choose baseball's top team this year.

The Rangers lead the season with a .276 batting average, but the Giants, behind Lincecum, have outstanding pitching.

The Rangers have never been to the World Series. Philadelphia won in the franchise's 10th season.

The Giants last won it with an upset of the favored Cleveland Indians in 1954, before they packed their bags to leave New York for San Francisco.

* * *

Boy Vinoya, a friend in California, told me by overseas phone that after Pinoy pride Lincecum won the opener Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila) at AT&T Park, Giant fans remain elated and underdoing that their team is poised to end San Francisco's 56-year drought to the World Series.

What about Percy Dellosa's? Having lived for a while in Sagbilaf by the bay before moving to Los Angeles and finally settling in Sacramento, the state capital, I know they have pinched cheeks prepared to mollify.

They've even hinted the padres contract for a party, if not a full-blown fiesta.

* * *

In the next several days, Filipino nation, now as populous as their Asian counterparts, will find a resurgence and an undercurrent for the benefit of the confederated parties, many unsolved as to which the Senate to Henry Sy sweet.

Typical come-one to a Henry SY kitsch (include the usual mouth-watering fare—adobo, pinakbet, lumpia and lechon), leave-leave, pasyar and lumpia.

Filipinos tend to smirk each other in the kitchen that is jobs—endless industries but supported to be one of their comparisons—from sponsor to stage and become a favorite punch line during solid happy nights.

The fog's thicker now because of this tourism buzz brewing over the Bay, goes the jokes. There's even credibility to increase of the smoke from the kitchens of Filipinos who've decided to cook rice and adobo all to taste.

St. Bridget gains WBL lead

ST. BRIDGET School crushed Assumption, 74-48, to claim its third straight win and join idle St. Pedro Poveda in the Group B lead of the 17 Under Competition Division of the Women's Basketball League at the Ateneo School gym.

San Beda-Mendiola bested Nazareth (3-2), 58-36 for a second win that gave it a share of the Group A lead with homegrown in this tournament organized by the Best Center backed by Mikee.

Emmanuel of Lourdes evened its record to 1-1 with a 79-42 thumping of La Salle College Antipolo, also in Group A.

St. Michael Brady sprinkled Gabgabi de Sta. Rosa, 42-32, for its third win in four games.

AMA-Junior Maristel Holy Spirit, 44-20, for its first win in two games in Group B.

In college play, De La Salle-Lipa blasted Assumption, 62-38, for its second straight win and a share of the Group A lead with St. Scholastica, which bested University of the Philippines-Diliman, 45-31.

Other scheduled results: Phil-A-Mi 48-46 Adventist-Old 39-40

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Power agency eyes $2B from bond issuance

PSALM also hopes to securitize Transco receivables

By Amy R. Nunez

STATE-RUN Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. hopes to raise as much as $2 billion in the first quarter next year through the issuance of peso-denominated bonds.

Proceeds of the bond issue will be used to settle maturing debts of another government agency, the cash-strapped National Power Corp.

The $2 billion would be double what PSALM had initially sought to raise.

"Based on our readings, we feel that volume-wise would be a better alternative. But we're still open [to other options, such as a bond sale to off-shore market]. This is just the direction we're leaning toward. But definitely, the issuance of dollar bonds is one of the options," said PSALM president Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr.

The company's pressure liability management program allows it to either tap the local capital market or engage in dollar financing to settle obligations. Tapping the credit market has become more attractive since the government has begun slowing down the privatization of the state's remaining energy assets.

Depending on market conditions at the time of issuance, Ledesma said PSALM could conduct the issuance either in a single transaction or by tranches.

Proceeds from the bond raising will be used to service Napocor's 2011 obligations amounting to $1.29 billion. In March 2011, $300 million worth of previously issued bonds would mature. In August that same year, $400 million worth of floating-rate notes would fall due, Ledesma said.

As of end-2009, Napocor's total liabilities stood at a staggering $16.5 billion.

PSALM, which was created in 2001, has been tasked not only to handle the privatization of Napocor's generation assets and contracted capacities, but to also clean up the power firm's debt running into billions of dollars.

Under its liability management program, PSALM is also looking at "securitizing" close to $3 billion worth of receivables of National

POWER /B-2

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STOCK MARKET *Quarterly*

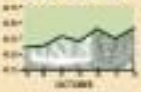
■ **Bulls push stocks** to unprecedented heights /B11-B15

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Oct. 28, 2010

43.102



OCTOBER

STOCK MARKET

Oct. 28, 2010

24.38

Shares close down

LOCAL STOCKS yesterday tumbled as investors took the snapshot of the US federal Reserve's plans to buy back more bonds tampered global risk appetite.

The index of the Philippine Stock Exchange index fell by 24.38 points or 0.57 percent to 4,260.69.

The local bourse was mostly weighed down by the commercial and industrial counters, which declined by 1.96 percent and 1.54 percent, respectively. The financial and services counters also traded in the red.

On the other hand, the holding and property firms eked out modest gains.

There were only five advancers for every nine decliners. Value turnover amounted to P5.58 billion. There was a modest net foreign buying of P206.44 million.

Overnight, the Dow Jones Industrial Index dropped by 43.19 points, or .39 percent. Latest economic data added to

SHARES /B-2

PSALM reconsiders debt tack

Zeus Holdings, Inc.

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of *Zeus Holdings, Inc.* will be held on 11 November 2010 (Thursday), 2:00 p.m. at the Penthouse, Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

(Sgd.) Atty. Dinny L. Parker
Corporate Secretary

SALE

DIAMOND BLADES / WELDING, ETC.

- Phenolite Board / Cloth Based for Gear Making Paper for Electrical
- Bakelite Board
- Stainless Steel Band (L Buckle, etc.)
- Leather Belting, Flat, Round, Set Hook, etc.
- Diamond, Abrasive Blade, Dipper, Chisel, Tubular Brazed
- Lokomo Welding Electrodes
- Welder, Manual, Rocker Bit, Welding Wheel
- Rubatex Sheet & Pipe Insulation
- Fiberglass Sheet & Pipe Insulation

50 years ARMSTRONG

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK
Investment of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	
Bond Fund – Peso	1.00000 / 1.00000
Management Fund – Peso	0.97284 / 0.97284
Growth Fund – Peso	0.68618 / 0.68618
Equity Fund – Peso	1.00000 / 1.00000
Bond Fund – US Dollar	1.00000 / 1.00000
Balanced Pesos Fund 1	1.00000 / 1.00000
Balanced Pesos Fund 2	1.00000 / 1.00000
Protective Fund – Peso	1.00000 / 1.00000
Money Market Fund – Peso	1.00000 / 1.00000

RP banks ready and able to deal with tight rules

By Michelle V. Ramos

COMMERCIAL BANKS in the country are highly liquid and are more than able to cope with the imminent tightening of capitalization requirements, which the international community is pushing to maximize its financial stability worldwide.

According to Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), its members do not see any problem with the potential tightening of capitalization requirements.

Bank regulators nationwide are now in talks with banks on tighter capitalization rules. The new regulations will come to be known by as "Basel 3," or the third stage of bank regulatory reform being pushed by the international financial community.

The new rules are still being finalized, but under-one reported provision, banks, to be issued Tier-1 capital-to-risk-weighted assets—particularly "hybrid tier 1" and "tier 2" instruments—will no longer be computed as part of a bank's capital.

This means that only common shares of stocks and retained earnings will be considered part of a bank's capital base.

Also, a capital adequacy ratio (CAR), or the proportion of a bank's capital against risk-exposed assets, will determine when a finance institution's capital is sufficient or not.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas requires banks in the country to maintain CAR of least 10 percent.

The country's commercial banks are well capitalized and have CARs that are above the BSP's 10-percent minimum requirement, said BAP president Aurelio Montilla III, who is also head of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI).

Montilla told that even with the expected move of the BSP to redefine the limit on "near-cash" commercial banks in the country could still be able to meet liquidity requirements.

"Even if measured in terms of Basel 3, [Philippine] banks still have comfortable [capital] levels of numbers," Montilla said.

Last week, the BSP issued a memorandum on banks' issuances of hybrid tier 1 and tier 2 instruments. Banks use these instruments to raise funds and beef up capitalization. The BSP imposed the restrictions, citing ongoing discussions among policymakers on the tightening of capitalization rules.

Agency move may translate to lower rates

By Amy R. Remo

STATE-OWNED Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. may pull out four of its pending applications to recover from power consumers over P900 billion worth of unrecorded debt and interest costs.

PSALM officials said they would need to study more closely all the items that had been lumped in those petitions.

According to PSALM president Emmanuel Eduardo Rubio, the core of the agency's mandate is to privatize the assets of the state power firm is considering since there are issues that remain unclear.

PSALM has yet to decide what to now course of action will be, he added.

"We have been meeting extensively ... so we have not to point to one direction. I think we should [complete] more clarifications [to Republican] commissioner Gene Zenarosa because I wanted to clarify things myself because a lot of those issues were not clear," Lotilores explained in a briefing yesterday.

"We will have to study it closely and unveil it to the public to be fair for PSALM and the people.... I think in the next few weeks, we will be able to decide [exactly what our course of action will be]."

Lotilores further said that PSALM would wish to clarify with the ERC whether the commission could refile its application once its re-opened [docket] cases [on] the issues [that] it has [or that the regulator may not allow the same time to recover costs once the applications have been pulled out].

Also, it is not clear whether the planned review may result in the lowering of charges to be passed on to consumers, officials said.

In 2009, PSALM filed two applications to recover National Power Corp.'s stranded debt and stranded contract costs worth P453 billion. These petitions would translate to an additional charge of P0.48 centavos per kilowatt-hour, and would be collected under the universal charge component of an electricity bill over a 17-year period.

The second set of applications filed this year would be for recovery of approximately P61.36 billion worth of stranded debt and stranded costs due incurred by Napocor. Based on separate petitions it filed with the ERC, the costs would translate to a power rate increase of P0.0586 per kWh.

Applications for these rate increases are pending before the ERC.

Stranded debt refers to an unpaid financial obligation of Napocor that cannot be covered by proceeds from the sale of Napocor's power assets. Meanwhile, the estimated stranded cost of an eligible contract is calculated every year as the difference between the actual contracted obligation and the revenue accrued from the sale of contracted energy.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, proceeds from the government's power privatization program will be used to retire Napocor's debts, which include the P400 billion worth of obligations stranded by the government.

Proceeds from privatization of state power plants have so far reached $4.36 billion. But Napocor's outstanding debt stood at $10.5 billion as of end-2009.

Funds sought for RP agribusiness

By Rica T. Obcharoka

THE PHILIPPINES will continue to have trouble producing surplus food for export out-beat increased public investment in agriculture, an agribusiness official said in a forum organized by the European Union and American chambers of commerce.

Roberto Ancheta, president of mango exporter McGuy Marketing said the president for agriculture or the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said that phytosanitary issues, lack of expansion in irrigation and research for hardier, and more drought-resistant varieties of crops to cope with erratic weather due to climate change have become perennial challenges to food production.

"Increasing productivity is crucial with our growing population and big demand for exports, but supply will not be enough if we do not have irrigated areas and have to market roads, for example," Ancheta said in remonstrances.

Ancheta also proposed incentives to encourage farming "without prejudice to the government's fund rebate program," implementing a system for land ownership, establishing infrastructure for land subdivision, and implementing a system for banning foreign exchange movements.

According to industry data, Philippine agricultural exports (processed food and banana, fruits, vegetables, and marine and seafood products) reached nearly $1.35 billion in the last three months of 2010.

The value for the first eight months of this year is 3.77 percent lower than the $1.39 billion booked in the same period last year.

The fruits and vegetables subsector reported a big drop of 19.26 percent to $369.61 million from $457.70 million.

The processed food and beverages subsector grew 6.82 percent to $630.66 million from $590.36 million last year.

The marine and seafood products subsector also increased value to $209.81 million from $161.47 million last year.

However, continued growth in processed and marine products could not make up for the decline in fruits and vegetables.

Henry J. Schumacher of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines said successful models, such as that of Bayfit, programs with the Philippine Coffee Board and the Department of Agriculture, could encourage foreign-backed agribusiness investments.

Meralco raising capex to P12B/yr

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distribution, plans to increase the amount it is allocating for capital expenditure program to as much as P12 billion from yearly beginning 2012.

Oscar Reyes, the newly-appointed chief operating officer of Meralco, said the company was looking at annual investments of about P12 billion "to keep improving service delivery to customers and the robustness of our distribution system, in order to meet open future of our service territory."

The firm earlier submitted three bid lines delays in the rollout of its close to P11 billion capex program. As of end-September, Meralco reported it had spent only P6.1 billion or about half of the amount it had allocated for 2010.

"We've got our program commitments. If there are slippage, that's because we're trying to ensure that what we do creates value in the end," Reyes explained, adding that the power utility considers "timing" as well in implementing its planned projects.

Meralco president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan said the company might be able to catch up with the planned capex program in the last quarter of the year. Recently, Meralco's board of directors approved more than P1 billion worth of equipment purchases to improve its reliability, especially for typhoons.

Meralco's capex budget for 2010 was largely earmarked to support projects in areas with large concentrations of new customers and to give priority to correction of normal deficiencies in the system. The budget would likewise allow the distribution utility to "undertake feasibility of company facilities and initiate projected and cost-effective projects to correct system deficiencies."

For the third regulatory period, which will begin on July 1, 2011 and end on June 30, 2015, the distribution utility hopes to allocate as much as P44.16 billion for its planned capital expenditure projects.

These investments correspond to recovery in the company's distribution, supply and metering charges amounting to an average of P1.7026 per kilowatt-hour for regulatory year 2011 from the average P1.6444 rate for regulatory year 2011. Amy Remo

Power agency . . .

From page B1

Transmission Corp. (Transco), according to Lotilores.

The agency is also considering "an outright sale" that may roughly amount to $3 billion.

"It's still very early to tell. But we're looking more more at an outright sale. It's simpler and it's more achievable for PSALM, that again, notwithstanding or the billionaires. If we realize the full amount, it would be good. If we realize close to $3 billion off our books, it will make our $6- to $8 easier going forward," Lotilores added.

Shares close down

From page B1

expectations that the second phase of the US Fed's quantitative easing through bond buyback would be gradual—by the hundreds of billions instead of trillions, as envisioned up to an investment bank Credit Agricole CIB.

"My conclusion is look for an initial $500 billion purchase program on a six-month horizon, with the amount to be reviewed each month. A smaller-sized QE2 and higher-dollar yields will be supportive for the US dollar," Credit Agricole said.

Among the day's decliners were Bermuda-based Bloomberry Inc., First Philippine Holdings Corp., Manila Power Corp., and SM Prime Holdings Inc.

On the other hand, the following stocks gained ground: JG Summit Holdings Inc., Ayala Land Inc., DMCI Holdings Inc., Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and Bank of the Philippine Islands. Sheryn E. Diaz-Rubio

Gov't urged to review forex policy

By Abigail L. Ho

MORE LOCAL industries, many of which are expected to be the country's biggest growth drivers, are starting to hurt because of the strong peso, prompting them to step up pleas for the government to review its foreign exchange policy.

In yesterday's presentation of Outlook Philippines 2011: Seven Big Winners, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president for agriculture Sidney Ayson said while the sector was still riding a rope, its future growth would be endangered by the strength of the peso.

"Definitely it can't get us off the ground properly. We can't forecast our economic with our hopes alone. Also, a strong peso makes imports cheaper, which, in turn, competes with the local manufacturing sector," he said. "There's got to be a government policy of a better pronounced fineness of foreign exchange."

Agribusiness was one of the seven biggest growth industries that the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines named yesterday. Also on the list were BPO and creative industries, infrastructure, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and public-private partnerships.

Wiz Metallica Destinations Inc. director and president Jose Clemente said the tourism industry also stood to

GOV'T ►B2

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VOLVO

ANTONIO S. MANAS, SR.
"TONY"

peacefully joined our Creator on October 27, 2010 at the age of 85.

His bereaved family, wife **GENEROSA DIZON MANAS**; children, **MARIA MELINDA** (†), **MARIA PAZ, ANTONIO JR. & BARBARA RODRIGUEZ, AMELIA, KARINA & ADRIAN MANAPAT, RAMON, MYRAJOYCE & JOSE PAOLO MAGPALE**; and grandchildren, **CELINA & JIMBO, NEIL** and **BROOKE, CARLOS** and **RICHEN & GABY, MARCO & BETTINA, LUISA & QUINTIN, MARTINA, MARTA** request your prayers for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation and inurnment will follow after the funeral mass on Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

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In Loving Memory
of the
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In Loving Memory of
CARMEN CRUZ TRINIDAD
of Mandaluyong, Rizal, Philippines
on her 50th Death Anniversary

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SR. Ma. EPIFANIA ATALIN, OSA
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CLASSIFIEDS

"M/V FRIGIA"

The vessel was attacked and hijacked by pirates on 23rd March, 2010, off the coast of Somalia, while she was proceeding to the Philippines, laden with cargo for Owner as follows:

- 4,112 MT "Muriatic of Potash Standard Grade in Bulk Red" under B/L no. PPRUAGH 19065
- 2,170 MT "Muriatic of Potash Standard Grade in Bulk White" under B/L no. PPRUAGH 19066
- 1,950 MT "Muriatic of Potash Standard Grade in Bulk White" under B/L no. PPRUAGH 19067

Following the incident, long negotiations with the pirates were concluded successfully and upon receiving the agreed ransom, the pirates released the vessel on 29th July 2010, along with her crew and the cargo.

The ransom payment and other accompanying costs and expenses in order to rescue the vessel from the pirates and to continue the voyage are considered to be General Average expenditure.

On the reverse sides of the Bills of Lading, which are all CONGENBILL 1994 Edition, it is provided that:

"General Average shall be adjusted, stated and settled according to York-Antwerp Rules 1994, or any subsequent modification thereof, in London unless another place is agreed in the Charter Party. Cargo contribution to General Average shall be paid to the Carrier even when such average is the result of a fault, neglect or error of the Master, Pilot or Crew. The Charterers, Shippers and Consignees expressly renounce the Belgian Commercial Code Part II, Article 148."

Furthermore, Clause 12 of the printed forms of Gencon 94 concluded by the Owners and the Charterers provided that : "General Average shall be adjusted in London unless otherwise agreed in Box 23 according to York Antwerp Rules 1994 and any subsequent modification thereof." It is indicated in Box 23 that General Average to be adjusted at London.

Accordingly, Owners have declared General Average and have appointed Maritime Adjusting Services of London.

The vessel's agents in the Philippines are Euro-Med Intl., Maritime Agency Inc.

National Power Corporation
(A Wholly Owned Government Corporation)

INVITATION TO BID

For the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Test and Commissioning of 11 Units Substation Transformers for Lot 2 (NPC Requirements)

1. The National Power Corporation (NPC) through the Corporate Budget of NPC for 2010, intends to apply the sum of Php 69,750,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment(s) under the contract for the Supply, Installation, Tests and Commissioning of 11 Units Substation Transformers for Lot 2 (NPC Requirements) Mobile Power Plant and Supplementary Lanao del Sur. Bid received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

For Bid Submission	Submission/Opening of Bids
Date	19 November 2010
Time	10:00 A.M.
Venue	Philippine Geoin, NPC Building, Quezon City

2. NPC now invites bids for the furnishing and supply of labor, materials, tools and equipment necessary for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Test and Commissioning of One (1) unit 75 MVA Power Transformer and Protection Relay including the supply, warehousing, protection and other appurtenances and other services specified in this Invitation to Bid for NPC Mobile Units. Bidding Contract Reference is 200 calendar days. Bidders should have completed within the last three (3) years from date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents.

3. Bidding shall be conducted thru open competitive bidding procedure using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the IRR of RA 9184.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from NPC Bids and Contracts Services Department (BACSD) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders as of October 2010 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php 10,000.00.

6. It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and NPC, provided that bidders shall pay the cost indicated fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

7. The NPC Bid Committee shall not open any or all information sent or received pursuant to the Bidding Documents.

8. NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to:

Engr. [illegible]
Chairman, Technical Working Group and Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that ... (name of applicant) ... has filed with this Office an application for registration with the BOARD OF ... under the provisions of ... and ... of the ... Code of the Philippines. ... (description of the mark) ... is intended to be used for ... (goods/services) ... and the date of first use was ... in ... (place of first use). ... Any person who may have an opposition to the application may file the same within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Sgd.) ... (name) ...
Director
Bureau of ...

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the dissolution of ... (name of corporation) ... was approved by the Board of Directors and stockholders in a meeting duly called for the purpose.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present same at ... (address) ... within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Sgd.) ... (name) ...
Corporate Secretary

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SIQUIJOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Siquijor City

INVITATION TO BID

The Siquijor Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SIQUIJELCO), through its duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested and accredited bidders to apply for eligibility and to subsequently submit sealed bids, in strict but not limiting compliance:

Project #1.
Supply, Delivery & Installation of Power Wires, Wire Harness, Power Cables, Service Drop Assembly, Metering Accessories, Transformer Racks, Pole Accessories and Other Materials

Project #2.
Supply, Delivery & Installation of Power/MV Electric Power Transmission Poles and Other Materials (Concrete, Tubular and Steel) - Transformer Racks, Service Drop Assembly, Wire Harness, Power Cables, Metering Accessories and Other Materials

Project #3.
Construction of 20/25/31.5 kVA Three-Phase and Single-Phase Power Transformer Substation at Various Barangays of Siquijor Province - Transformer Racks, Service Drop Assembly, Wire Harness, Power Cables, Metering Accessories and Other Materials

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BIDDERS

The bidders shall be solely responsible for taking all the necessary steps to verify the qualifications and compliance of their bid documents with the requirements set forth and specified in the Bidding Documents. Failure to comply strictly with the requirements may result in the rejection of the bid proposal. Bidders are encouraged to examine and inspect the site of the Project and to inform themselves fully of the conditions therein prior to the submission of their bids. NOTE: Failure to attend the pre-bid conference shall be a ground for disqualification of the bidder to participate in the bidding process. Pre-bid conference will be conducted by the Bids and Awards Committee on November 4, 2019, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

All bids submitted must be accompanied with a bid security in cash or in check in the amount equivalent to two percent (2%) of the ABC. The bid security shall be posted through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Office. The bid security shall be valid until the bids are awarded.

SIQUIJELCO reserves the right to reject one or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defect in the bidding process and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **CRISOSTOMO ALMARIO**
BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **JOSEFINO D. JUMAO**
General Manager

(PIN-Ad: 8124-Nov 1, 2019)

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Passi City
Tel. No. (033)-6666, 335-0040 • Fax 335-0007

October 24, 2019

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

ILECO II invites bona fide Software Companies to apply for eligibility and to express interest to bid for the following items:

- **ASSIGNING BIDS TO THE BIDDING PARTICIPANTS**
- **PAYROLL/TIMEKEEPING SOFTWARE**
- **PAYROLL/PERSONNEL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE**
- **MEMBERSHIP DATA MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**

Interested parties shall accomplish their Letter of Intent, latest Company Profile, Mayor's Permit, Income Tax Return and Certificate of Registration. The PHILG will only invite bidders found eligible for the bidding, who shall pay a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 prior to bidding proper.

Schedules:

Submission of Requirements	Not later than November 15, 2019
Pre-qualification and Document Submittal	November 18, 2019
Presentation/Product Demo (if applicable)	December 1-20, 2019
Opening of Bids	December 21-23, 2019

Schedules of final bidding will be announced later.

ILECO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or declare the bidding a failure, or cancel the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, or not award the contract, and therefore incurring none of any liability to the affected bidders.

For further information please contact Ms. Guadalupe Lasola 033-6666 local 11 or Mr. Raymundo Laguilo 033-6666 local 18.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. REMONDO D. ROQUISE**
General Manager

(PIN-Number 8-2019)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the public that **Ms. Brizida Panasian Albarra** and **Mr. Jesie Dalmacio-An Esoga** whose pictures appear above are no longer connected with Datacrown Enterprise Corporation since August 15, 2019 and September 30, 2019 respectively. Therefore, any transaction made by them in behalf of the company after the above-mentioned dates will no longer be honored.

Please take note also of the following missing Provisional Receipts Numbers: **3001-0100 and Official Receipt Numbers: 2001-0000, 3001-3100, 3201-3250, 3401-3450, 3501-3550, 4001-4100, 4151-4200, 4331-4350 and 3551-0000.** These missing documents are considered invalid and no longer honored by the company.

(PIN-Ad: 8-2019)

More Classifieds

Adela Serra Ty Memorial Med. Center B6
Camarines Sur 1 Electric Coop. B6
DBP Tagum B6
Department of Health B6
Mariano Marcos Mem. Hospital B6
Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative B6

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
2/3/4/5 NDC Building, 111 Tordesillas St.
Salcedo Village

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
Innovantes.org Foundation, Inc. DCT NGC Bldg., CP Garcia Ave., UP Diliman, Quezon City	Anthony M. Lopez (Jesse) Philippines	People & Organizational Networking Manager
"SLD TECH DOTCOMM CORP." MANAGEMENT PHILIPPINES, INC. Building 7, San Gonzalez Drive, 1200 Bay Street, Old Central Business Park, Brgy. Cebu Parade City	Carlos Manuel Australian	Trainer
"STRATEGIC TRADE - SINGAPORE (FSU) LTD., PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE) Philippine Sea Line Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Graeme Martin Lawrence	Chief Representative
B.R.K. FOOD GROUP INC. 146-B Jupiter St., Makati City	Sunil Singh Indian	Indian Chef
SOUNDSTIRS, INC. 1809 Philcom Tower, 8751 Ayala Ave. cor. S.R. Rufino St., Makati City	Tanaka Isao (Ishi Isao) Singaporean	Senior Finance Consultant
MACDONELL DOWELL PHILIPPINES, INC. Level 4 NCL Tower Commerce Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City	Lynette Blain Cormond Wellsome New Zealand	Tunnel Supervisor
LINGUA INTERPRET ACADEMY INC. Unit 2001 Jollibee Global Corporate Center, Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Hongsu Kim Korean	Marketing Manager
GOLDARMS PHILIPPINES INC. 3/F Philippine Trust, 8521 Paseo de Roxas St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Freddy Bin Mohd Yunos Singaporean	Managing Director
"CHIP & JACKEY'S BEAUTY SALON CORP." C/o Sesame, Teresa Bonga Timog Ave., Laging Handa, Del Monte City	Hyungkeung Cho Korean	Hair Stylist
"CHIP & JACKEY'S BEAUTY SALON CORP." Unit 240 SM City Manila Concession con Annonang St., Ermita, Manila	Hoghwa Choi Korean	Hair Stylist
"CHIP & JACKEY'S BEAUTY SALON CORP." Unit 240 SM City Manila Concession con Annonang St., Ermita, Manila	Chinyoung Lee Korean	Hair Stylist
"CHIP & JACKEY'S BEAUTY SALON CORP." Unit 240 SM City Manila Concession con Annonang St., Ermita, Manila	Myeongsoon Jeon Korean	Hair Stylist
"IT'S SHOWTIME" YOUR WORLD UNIVERSAL INC. Unit 1103 Tower One and Exchange Plaza, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Masayuki Kubo Japanese	Chairman of the Board
PESLYVAN COLLEGE OF MANILA INC. 1706 Lourdes St. con Balagtas St., Pasay City	Kyung Lan Hwa Korean	Assistant to the Dean
"SM-JS ACADEMY INC." Unit 11-16 MEI Prime Center, Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City	Seyoung Dok Kim Korean	General Manager

Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
"M-TA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES), INC." 10/F Ayala-Ma Ave Tower, 3rd Ave., cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Roxanne Keys Indian	Associate Consultant
"M-TA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES), INC." 10/F Ayala-Ma Ave Tower, 3rd Ave., cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Nuwal Laxmi Indian	1 Analyst
"M-TA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES), INC." 10/F Ayala-Ma Ave Tower, 3rd Ave., cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Vinayak Reddy Yathiraju Indian	1 Analyst
"M-TA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES), INC." 10/F Ayala-Ma Ave Tower, 3rd Ave., cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Srinivasa Reddy Peddola Indian	Associate Consultant
"M-TA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES), INC." 10/F Ayala-Ma Ave Tower, 3rd Ave., cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Gowdahalli Lakshmikanth Indian	1 Analyst
"INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT & TECHNICAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY, INC." 3/F MYRC Bldg., 6th Ave. corner Lapu-Lapu Ave., Brgy. Pasiano, Makati City	Tank Jeon Lee Korean	Consultant
"LG ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC." 19 Floor Ayala Triangle Gardens Tower 1, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Tae Woo Yoon Korean	Vice President for B2B Department
"PHILEX LOGISTICS INC." Meralco Avenue Center Road 10, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Soono Shin Korean	General Manager
"UNIBROLDS INC." 10/F Tower II, PCIBC Plaza Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Steve Hong Vincent Kuan Singaporean	Business Development Manager
"UNIBROLDS INC." 10/F Tower II, PCIBC Plaza Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Jaeseung Chang Singaporean	Customer Service Manager
"UNIBROLDS INC." 10/F Tower II, PCIBC Plaza Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Cornelius Sutrisno Singaporean	Assistant General Manager
"SOFTWORKS CORP INC." 21/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave. cor. Poveda St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Adil Feroz Kara Pakistani	Operations Manager (Managed Major Accounts Division)
"ABEL LUZHAN TRADING CORP." C/O Dodo Dalmones, Hyacinthes, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Sukhvir Pal Kaur Indian	Account Manager
"MAXIDO JAGIR TRADING CORP." 1/F Lot 4, Marian St., Ermita, Manila	Vishal Angel Singh Indian	Assistant Marketing Officer
"NITSUCH CONSULT CO., LTD." Mangyan Corporate Tower, Suite 10-11, 4th Floor, 3rd Panganiban, Makati City	Akio Tomioka Mitsuchi Japanese	Vice Chairman, COO/Vice President

If you have any information/opposition to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

TERESITO G. AGRAVANTE
Regional Director

(PIN-Number 06-2019)

NDC NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NDC)** invites interested bidders for the sale of its property with a total area of 19.17 hectares, located along **Humapas, Barangay Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite** (Beside the First Cavite Industrial Estates) in **CASH** and on an " **As-is, Where is**" basis. The minimum bid price is at **PESOS: TWO HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR MILLION AND ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (P254,100,000)**.

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of **P10,000** which is non-refundable beginning November 2, 2019 at:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
c/o The Commission Adv. Sarah Grace Banal)
Disposal Committee
7th Floor, NDC Bldg.
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: (02) 840-4808 Local 227

A pre-bid conference shall be held on November 11, 2019, 1:30PM at the ABS Hall, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Bids must be sealed and submitted between 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on November 22, 2019 labeled and addressed as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee
National Development Company
8th Floor, NDC Building
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

CODE: HUMAPAS, DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE PROPERTY

The opening of sealed bids, prepared in the prescribed forms and accompanied by a 10% bid bond, is scheduled on November 22, 2019 at 2:30 PM at the ABS Hall, NDC Building in the presence of all bidders and/or their authorized representative(s). Bids submitted after 2:00 PM shall no longer be accepted.

The NDC Disposal Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids, which are deemed advantageous to NDC.

(Sgd.) **SATURNINO H. IMEJA**
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PIN-Number 05, 06 & 07-2019)

NDC NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NDC)** invites interested bidders for the sale of its property with a total area of 1,002 sq. m. located along **Mcarthur Highway** and **San Nicolas Street**, **San Angelo Subdivision, Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Angeles City** in **CASH** and on an "**AS-IS, WHERE-IS**" basis. The minimum bid price is at **PESOS: FORTY FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND (P45,448,000), EXCLUSIVE OF TAXES.**

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of **P500.00** which is non-refundable beginning November 2, 2019 at:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
c/o The Secretariat (Ms. Sarah Grace Banal)
Disposal Committee
7th Floor, NDC Building
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel No.: (02) 840-4808 local 227

A pre-bid conference shall be held on November 11, 2019 at the ABS Hall, National Development Company Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Bids must be sealed and submitted between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM on November 22, 2019 labeled and addressed as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee
National Development Company
8th Floor, NDC Building
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

CODE: ANGELES CITY LOT

The opening of sealed bids, prepared in the prescribed forms and accompanied by a 10% bid bond, is scheduled on November 22, 2019 at 2:30 PM at the ABS Hall, NDC Building in the presence of all bidders and/or their authorized representative(s). Bids submitted after 2:00 PM shall no longer be accepted.

The NDC Disposal Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids, which are deemed advantageous to NDC.

(Sgd.) **SATURNINO H. IMEJA**
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PIN-Ad: 8-9-10-2019)

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Century to invest P3B in Versace-designed condo

By Dharil L. Lucas

CENTURY PROPERTIES has entered into a partnership with Italian luxury brand and design house Versace for an upscale residential project in Makati City.

In a statement, the property firm said it would invest "over P3 billion" in its newest project—The Milano Residences—which would be built in Century City, the site of the former International School along Kalayaan Avenue.

The Milano Residences slated for completion in 2015

For this project, Century Properties said it had partnered with Versace, the world-renowned fashion and luxury brand based in Milan, Italy, for the design of the interiors and public spaces of the project.

Century Properties said the project is "a first for the international brand in Southeast Asia."

With 63 floors, The Milano Residences is slated for completion in 2015 and will be part of a complex of residential and commercial buildings on the 3.4-hectare property.

The building's architecture is expected to complement Versace Home's interior designs, which will be shown in the ground lobby, hallways, lounge, library, pool gazebo and spa. Versace Home will also create interior themes which residents may adopt for their own units.

"Versace Home, the authority in showing the essential art of luxury living, is now in Manila through the Milano Residences," Century Properties managing director Robbie Antonio said.

The building is expected to have a total of 360 units in one- to three-bedroom configurations. Prime units in various sizes and layouts include The Penthouses, The Townhouses and Italian-inspired units called The Loggias that feature private plunge pools.

Century Properties said it will formally open the showroom for the project in the first quarter of 2015 at its Pacific Star building headquarters in Makati City.

Century Properties is the largest privately-owned real estate firm in the country.

As earlier project, the Gaisano East Harbor in Port Bonifacio, was designed by Gri Partnership Architects and Ltd. Etc.

INVITATION TO BID

Land Sea Sky

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

SOUTHERN LEYTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SOLECO) invites interested parties to bid for: (1) CONSULTANCY and (2) CONTRACTOR for the CIVIL WORKS REHABILITATION of the 69 MW MAHIAO-ORE POWER PLANT, located at Brgy. Hinabaan, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, Philippines, owned and operated by the Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Prefered are Consultancy Groups and Contractors with category 'A' classification License particularly in dam construction.

The Civil Works scope is rehabilitation of existing structures and construction of new ones from Intake Structure and Desander at the dam site to accommodate with the approved new design, including desilting-scrubbing of mines and regulation of mine on penstock and supply of fuels).

Deadline for submission of application for pre-qualification will be on November 10, 2015. Qualified bidders may then secure bidding documents from SOLECO main office at Brgy. Maasin, Maasin City, Southern Leyte upon payment of a non-refundable bidder's fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P10,000.00). Eligible bidders are required to be present at this pre-bidding conference and create inspection scheduled on Dec. 1 to 3, respectively. Failure to attend the pre-bid conference automatically disqualifies a participant from entering the final bidding.

Sealed proposals in two copies accompanied by a Security Bond or Pre-Tender (PN) of the bid price and to be received by SOLECO at Brgy. Cam. Maasin City, Southern Leyte on or before 10:00 AM on Dec. 27, 2015 at which time and place the bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

SOLECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids whenever the interest of the Cooperative so demands.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
AURA A. SEVERA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

INVITATION TO BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE OF AURA SEVERA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

27 July 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2015 - 0035

SUBJECT: Rescission of Administrative Order No. 55 dated January 1990 regarding "Prohibition Against the Employment of Members of a Family Related Within the 3rd Degree Either of Affinity or Consanguinity in the Same Institution, Hospital or Office Under the Ministry of Health Not Covered by Nepotism"

In the interest of the service, Administrative Order No. 55 dated 5 January 1990 regarding "Prohibition Against the Employment of Members of a Family Related Within the 3rd Degree Either of Affinity or Consanguinity in the Same Institution, Hospital or Office Under the Ministry of Health Not Covered by Nepotism", and all other related issuances regarding the subject matter are hereby rescinded/repealed.

As such, the Nepotism rule indicated under the Civil Service Law and Rules shall be observed in the hiring of employees in this Department.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

ENRIQUE T. ONA, MD, FPCS, FACS
Secretary of Health

SUPPLEMENTAL BULLETIN TO OUR INVITATION TO BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DAY CARE FINANCE BUILDING

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Gov't urged . . .

From page B4

earlier forces a stronger peso since it would make inbound tourists less attractive to potential tourists.

He said that while a stronger peso could encourage more outbound travel, since the peso would be able to buy more overseas, tourist arrivals could be adversely affected in the long run as local spending would be reduced by many corporates as compared with a situation where the peso was not that strong.

"A strong peso will make airfare and hotel rooms more expensive for inbound tourists. If the peso appreciates even more, then that will be a real source of concern for us," he said.

Business Processing Association of the Philippines chief executive Oscar Santy said the BPO industry would likewise take a hit with a stronger peso, as BPO firms generated revenue in dollars yet spend in pesos.

"Most people in the Philippines don't have a good appreciation of the impact of a strong peso on exports," he said.

The Philippine Exporters Confederation had earlier warned that the strong growth of the export sector these past several months would be wiped out even more if the peso continues to gain strength.

Philexport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. expressed optimism that the sector's good performance in the first seven months of the year could lead to export sales finishing those to 2005, when the highest export sales figure was recorded.

The long-term sustainability of the export sector, however, hung in the balance as long as the Aquino Administration maintained its strong peso policy, he said.

Plagiarism experience

Raul J. Fababeira

THE ONGOING conflict between the Supreme Court and the faculty members of the UP College of Law over the alleged plagiarized decision of Justice Mariano Del Castillo reminds me of an earlier experience on plagiarism.

On Jan. 27, 2002, the Inquirer published my article entitled "Impeachment of a flamboyantyan Justice."

At that time, then President Joseph Estrada was being tried for the crime of plunder by a division of the anti-graft court consisting of Justices Minita Chico-Nazario, Edilberto Sandoval and Teresita Leonardo-De Castro.

But Estrada's lawyers demanded the Chico-Nazario disqualification from the panel because, in their view, she "does not possess the attributes of an impartial judge."

The motion stemmed from her earlier order during a hearing directing the court sheriff to escort out of the main area of Estrada's lawyers who insisted on talking while a co-defense lawyer still had the floor.

The Supreme Court later denied the defense lawyers' motion for lack of merit.

Inhibition

In that article, I discussed the pros and cons of filing motions for disqualification of judges and how that action is used by some lawyers to delay the proceedings.

It about the same time, a still case was being heard in serial court in Antipolo City where the defense lawyer had asked the presiding judge to inhibit himself from the case on the ground of bias for the plaintiff.

The judge fumed down the motion. In the order explaining his action, he lifted four paragraphs from my article, word for word, without acknowledging their source or my authorship.

In fact would have it, the lawyer also read my article and recalled those paragraphs. He sent me a copy of the order and asked if "I feel flattered by this extensive copying on would feel outraged about it."

I learned later that his client filed a disciplinary case (A.M. RTJ No. 00-1715, April 30, 2003) against the judge for "gross misconduct, dishonesty, gross ignorance of the law bias and partiality."

The unauthorized use of four paragraphs of my article was included in the complaint.

On this issue, the judge said there was nothing wrong in adopting or citing the article in question and that, "even granting, without admitting that his acts amounted to plagiarism, complainant is not the proper party to assert such cause of action."

Dismissed

After an extensive discussion of the facts and circumstances of the case, the ethical body dismissed the complaint for lack of merit.

The justices made short shrift of the issue of plagiarism. They said "the allegation of plagiarism does not contain a cause of action. Neither has complainant shown his legal standing to pursue this accusation."

I did not know about the filing of the complaint and its eventual dismissal until a year later when a lawyer friend who works in the tribunal called my attention to it.

After reading the decision, several questions came to my mind: No cause of action? How can they reach that conclusion when the plagiarized paragraphs affect the integrity of the order that was issued to the complainant's interest?

Why was the admitted infringement of intellectual property rights creatively treated by the tribunal considering that it has repeatedly ruled that those rights should be scrupulously respected?

What ever happened to the rules on acknowledgment and attribution of sources that law professors disciple into the hearts of their students? Intellectual dishonesty is not a rolling matter in the academe; more so to the legal profession where statements of lawyers are taken at their face value.

Malice

I concede the tribunal was right in saying that the complainant has no legal standing to pursue the accusation of plagiarism. Obviously, as the "aggrieved party," that right belongs to me.

But the problem is, despite the fact that the address of the lawyer appears in its editorial box, no notice or mention was sent to me, through the newspaper, to get my comments on the issues raised and the top of parts of the article.

On the question of malice, the tribunal had sent notices to parties who are not formally included or impleaded in a case to give their comments on the issues subject of a suit to make sure all sides are heard before it renders its ruling.

Why a similar action was not taken as to me that could have an adverse effect on the reputation of the judge in question, and on the judicial system in general, is a puzzler to me.

Looking back, if my comments were sought, I would have simply asked the judge to acknowledge my authorship and to promise not to do cutesy thing similar again.

One final note: When I was a young lawyer in the law offices of Quijano Bayo Montecillo and Quijano, a senior partner once taught me a lesson that I have taken to heart all these years before signing any document, read it carefully.

Your signature carries the weight of your name and reputation as a person and as an officer of the court.

(For feedback, please write to the legal advice@inquirer.com.ph)

DMCI, First Gen, JG make it to PSE's blue chips list

IPC raising funds via public offering

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved a plan of IP Converge Data Center Inc. (IPC), the data services subsidiary of listed technology firm IPVG Corp., to raise up to P900 million from an initial public offering (IPO) and list its shares on the local bourse that December.

IPC was allowed to list about 181.67 million common shares under the second board of the PSE, of which 45.47 million shares or about 25 percent shall be sold through an IPO prior to listing, the company announced on Thursday.

New shares will be offered to the public for up to P4.80 each, potentially giving the company a post-IPO market capitalization of as much as P1.8 billion.

The offering of primary shares is targeted by the latter part of November while listing **date will be in the first half of December.**

IPC will list on the PSE's second board, reserved for "start-up companies with a modest capitalization of at least P250 million and which could demonstrate a potential for "superior" growth.

Proceeds from the offering will be used to fund the company's data center and network expansion in Cebu, Bonifacio and Cubao, the expansion of its managed services and professional services business segments as well as to cover minor acquisitions and general working requirements. *Doris C. Dumlao*

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has revamped its line-up of blue chips under its main stocks barometer to include construction firm DMCI Holdings Inc., power generator First Gen Corp. and diversified conglomerate JG Summit Holdings Inc. effective Nov. 8.

Under the realignment, GMA Network Inc., Security Bank Corp. and San Miguel Corp. made to exit the select list, the same day as the nine representing the local equities market under the PSE index.

The changes were contained in a memorandum posted by the exchange yesterday.

The PSE consists of the country's 30 most traded, most liquid and well-capitalized listed firms. To be included in the PSE, which is a basket of select 30 stocks, a listed company must satisfy the criteria:

- a minimum public ownership of at least 10 percent, referring to the portion of the outstanding shares that are freely available and tradable in the market, or those shareholdings, which are non-strategic in nature;

- have a minimum stock liquidity as measured by an average daily trading value of at least P5 million;

- volume turnover rate must be at least 10 percent of the company's free float;

- 12 stocks must be traded at least 95 percent of the days that shares are eligible for trading; and

- firms must be sufficient free float market capitalization.

Free float market capitalization is computed using the volume-weighted average price of a listed stock during a particular review period. Companies that pass the first four criteria are ranked from highest to lowest based on free float-adjusted market capitalization. The top 30 in terms of free float market capitalization are included in the PSEi.

The last changes to the composition of the PSEi indices were made in May. But this exempt, DMCI and First Gen are repeating the index after being dropped from the roster during the last review.

The PSE is also set to restore the 10 percent minimum public float requirement effective Nov. 30 after The Securities and Exchange Commission approved the requirement for continuing listing and trading of shares.

The regulations state that the minimum public float should not include treasury-held shares.

GMA 7 profit down by 26% in Q3

By Paolo G. Montecillo

GMA NETWORK Inc. posted a 26-percent drop in profit in the third quarter of the year from a year ago, following the decline in ad time revenues with the absence of political advertisements that boosted earnings in the same period last year.

The company on Thursday announced that profit slumped to P565 million in July to September of 2010 from P768 million in the same quarter last year.

Gross revenue slipped by 10 percent to P3.3 billion as a result of a 13-percent decline in air time revenue, which made the bulk of the total.

Officials said the company's dismal third quarter performance was reflective of the lack of election campaign-related advertisements, which boosted sales in 2009.

"To be honest, the results for the third quarter was a disappointment but not a very big one," GMA chair and CEO Felipe Gozon said in a briefing.

Gozon explained the company is set on hard to raise its ad rates earlier in the year, which caused some big-ad-vertisers swap temporarily.

"So you know, human nature will swim over a reasonable substantial price increase because they used to buying my Mercedes cars for the price of a Honda," Gozon said.

Before easing its rates, Gozon said GMA had been earning just as much as its rival ABS-CBN, despite being able to sell nine of thousands of minutes more.

One advertiser, in particular, recommended the company for as long as three months due to the hike in rates. But that advertiser, the identity of which GMA was not at liberty to disclose, has come back and was now buying 60 percent more minutes than it used to before its boycott.

Despite the decline in the third quarter, the company said it was still on track in meeting or even exceeding its full-year income growth target P4 billion from P3.15 billion in 2009.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2010 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 2nd of 2 B 9

BUSINESS

RP one of world's best in microfinance, EIU says

Philippines ranks second on list of 54 countries, follows Peru

By Russel W. Dorotan

THE PHILIPPINES ranked second among 54 countries surveyed on the overall business environment for microfinance, a new report by the Economist Intelligence Unit showed.

Results of the 2010 Global Microscope Index also showed that the Philippines was tied at No. 1 with Cambodia and Pakistan in terms of regulations related to the microfinance sector.

The study data for which was gathered in the first half of this year, was commissioned by the Multilateral Investment Fund (part of the Inter-American Development Bank group), with financial support from the government of The Netherlands.

The latest of the yearly Microscope index is the fourth to cover 54 countries, although it started four years ago with 23 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

In the 74-page report, United Kingdom-based EIU said the Philippines earned an overall score of 77.8 points, improving by 0.3 points from the previous year's index to replace Bolivia at No. 2.

The Philippines and Bolivia, along with Peru which kept the No. 1 spot for the second year, share the top three places for so many years.

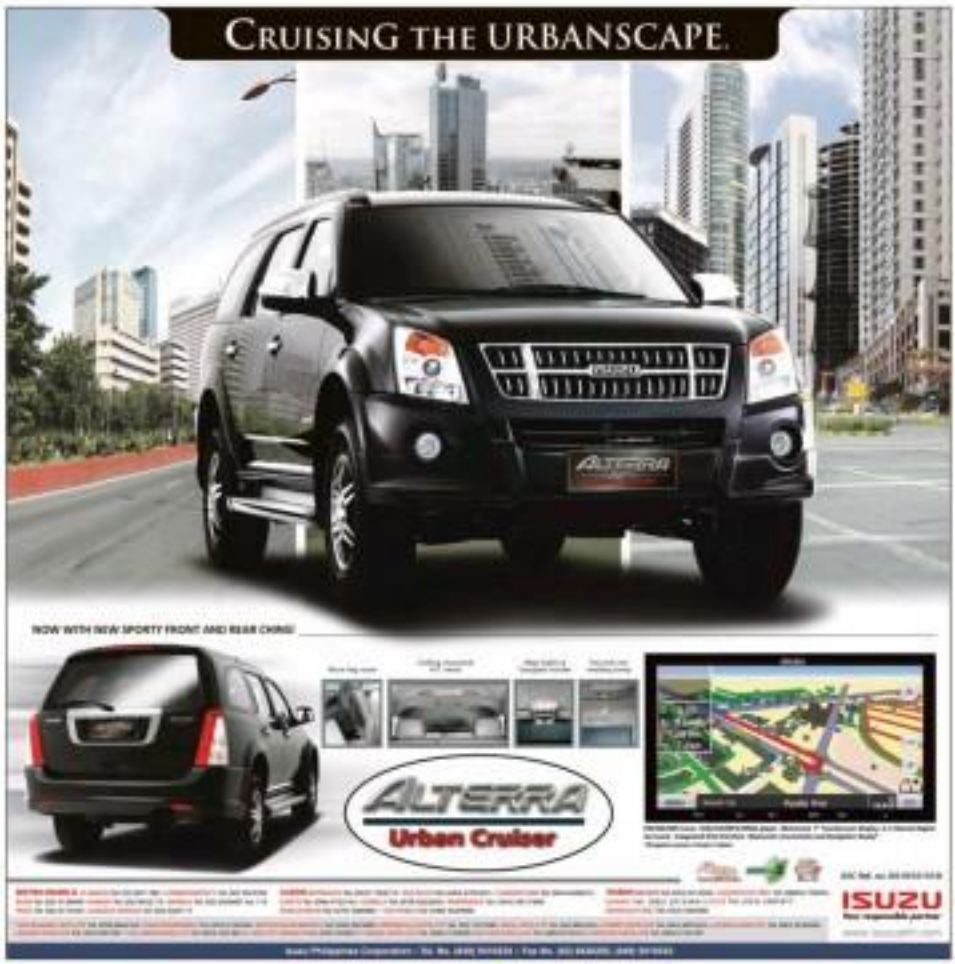
The Microscope index ranks countries based on scores—with a possible best of 100 points—in 12 indicators grouped in three categories.

The Philippines scored 87.5 points in the "regulatory framework" category, which covers the regulation of microcredit operations, the formation and operations of regulated as well as non-regulated microfinance institutions, and the government's capacity to regulate and monitor MFIs.

Also, the Philippines ranked No. 4 along with 10 Colombia and Nicaragua with 66.7 points in the institutional development category, which covers the range of services that MFIs, credit bureaus for microfinance, and the level of competition in the microfinance sector.

These first two categories each account for 40 percent of the overall ranking in the Microscope index.

The third category, "access,"



ADB pushes for creation of Asian Monetary Fund

Business discipline for agricultural development

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

CAN BUSINESS discipline only help agricultural development? Definitely. First of all, agriculture cannot be sustainable unless it is profitable. Secondly, the business discipline necessary to sustain profits is required for optimal agricultural development.

The table below on government intervention suggests priorities for Department of Agriculture budget use.

METHOD	AGRICULTURAL GDP per hectare (pesos)	AGRICULTURAL GDP per worker (pesos)	AGRICULTURAL GDP per peso of capital (pesos)	INVESTOR
Rice	60,000	7.5	80,000	33%
Corn/maize	180,000	9.5	80,000	33%
Plantations	90,000	2.5	80,000	33%
Organic				
Hybrid, Non-hybrid	60,000	7.5	80,000	33%
Hybrid, Genetically Modified				
Hybrid	1,000	2	80,000	300%
Hybrid, Genetically Modified				
Livestock	1,500	0.5	0.08	300%
Livestock	10,000	0.5	0.08	300%

Background

During these critical times of global food insecurity brought by climate change, it is imperative we maximize scarce resources. This would be good not only for increasing food production, but also for improving rural farmer incomes.

In the Philippine Agriculture Economics and Development Association (Philea), we reached a consensus that the business discipline of using Return on Investment (ROI) should be a key factor in determining agricultural budget priorities.

In June 2001, I wrote an Inquirer article on "Lost Politics, More Economics". This showed very clearly that restricting and repairing irrigation facilities yielded higher returns than building new ones. However, many specialists say that the latter was often preferred because of larger kickbacks.

The list immediately took action on this finding: we use the reversal of priority spending from new irrigation systems to restoration and repair.

Using ROI

However, using ROI should not be limited to irrigation. The table shows those preliminary ROI for other government interventions based on our recent research. However, the ROI varies depending on the specific area of the country. It is therefore important that the Local Government Units (LGUs), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the provincial and municipal Agriculturists and

COMMENTARY Fishery Consultants (APCO) members share their own ROI estimates in their unique areas. Agriculture spending priorities can then be determined with "less politics, more economics."

The ROI should be supplemented with other considerations. For example, if hybrid seeds appear to have a higher ROI than certified seeds in a certain area, it still should be determined if hybrid seeds should be subsidized. In areas where the land has lost much of its fertility due to too much chemical use, the SEOs may be actually negative for hybrid seeds. Even where hybrid rice is successful, there is no need for subsidies for those hybrid rice farmers who are already successful.

Shallow tube wells is another example. Though some may have a high ROI, there may be disastrous in areas where the water table is already low. In those areas, the water needed for future planting season may be used up.

Conclusion

Today, politics and other considerations often determine how the DA budget will be spent. It is recommended that the business discipline of ROI determination be used as a major factor in the final Congress DA budget item prioritization in the coming weeks.

The same ROI guidelines should also be used to determine DA budget allocations at the local level. The LGUs, DA, and the APCs can then determine which item should be funded first. They can also choose the most effective combination of government interventions in their specific areas. By using business discipline, agricultural development can accomplish the achievement of the much needed food security and increase farmers incomes.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for presidential flagship projects, grants and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry for tourism and cooperatives. e-mail: agriwatch_phil@yahoo.com or telefax 8921112)

Body seen fostering greater regional cooperation

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE ASIAN Development Bank has called on the Philippines and its neighbors to form the so-called Asian Monetary Fund which would contribute to greater financial cooperation in the region.

ADB, considered the Asian version of the International Monetary Fund, is envisioned to provide liquidity assistance to members in times of balance of payments difficulties and other financial services to ensure financial stability in the region.

The proposal was included in ADB's publication, entitled "Policy Recommendations to Secure Balanced and Sustainable Growth in Asia."

In the paper, ADB lauded members of the Asean +3 for having implemented the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM), saying this indicated a strong financial cooperation in the region.

Nonetheless, ADB said it was high time that Asean +3 countries further enhance their financial cooperation by developing the CMIM into the AMF.

"[Asean +3 countries should] transform the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization further to develop it into a full-fledged Asian Monetary Fund," the ADB said in the paper.

Under the CMIM, Asean +3 countries allotted specific portions of their dollar reserves as contingency support in case members country in the group suffers from BOP deficiency.

ADB suggested that the countries take the next logical step and transform the CMIM into AFM, which is also seen providing consistency and voice in monetary countries that may need technical assistance.

The CMIM was created after the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s.

At that time, Asian countries had criticized the IMF, which has the United States and European countries as the biggest shareholders, for not providing them enough assistance to lift them out of recession.

This prompted countries in the region to find ways to help themselves.

Asean countries include the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Brunei.

The "+3 countries" include China, Japan and South Korea.

In the paper, ADB also said that while developing Asian economies are expected to post robust growth this year and recover sharply from the global economic turmoil last year, there remain external risks to their growth potentials.

These include the possibility of a double dip recession in industrialized countries in the West, and volatility that may be created by the surge in foreign capital inflows into Asia.

The steep rise in foreign capital inflows is strengthening Asian currencies to the disadvantage of their export sectors.

Philex profit up on higher metal sales

By Rina T. Dichoso

PHILEX MINING Corp. reported higher income in the first nine months of the year compared to year-ago level as higher metal prices, greater tonnage of ore milled, and increased revenues from petroleum offset lower ore grades at its Padcal gold and copper mine.

In a statement, Philex disclosed that its unaudited core net income increased by 46 percent to P2.3 billion for the nine months of 2010 compared to almost P1.6 billion in the same period last year.

Its consolidated reported net income in the nine months to September this year was 23 percent higher at P3.1 billion from P1.7 billion in the same period last year.

The third quarter net income, at P1.1 billion, is the company's fourth highest quarterly income level in the past five years, even surpassing first half earnings.

Consolidated revenue increased 27.3 percent to P6.6 billion from almost P4.8 billion a year earlier on support sales gain by 33.3 percent to almost P3.8 billion from P2.85 billion.

Gold revenue rose by 16.6 percent to almost P4.6 billion from nearly P3.9 billion as gold prices made strides.

Petroleum revenue of P945.7 million, up by 4 times from P24.2 million a year earlier, was credited to Forum Energy PLC, a 51.95-percent owned subsidiary.

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Air Philippines goes international

By Paola G. Mercadio

LCCO 7804 LED Air Philippines, operator of budget carrier AirPhil Express, launched its first international route this week as part of the company's continuing expansion to compete with its nemesis player Cebu Pacific.

It is noteworthy, the company said the first of its daily flights to Singapore from Manila took off last Oct. 27. The company also announced plans to fly to Singapore from Cebu.

"Singapore's vibrant travel enthusiasts have responded to this new offering and the fast growing Philippine economy will spur a surge in inbound sales in anticipation of the holidays," the company said in a statement.

"Travelers out of Singapore to the Philippines have been very receptive of our start of operations. Even before our maiden flight yesterday October 27th, our forward sales for December and January are full for both Singapore-Cebu and Singapore-Manila," AirPhil vice-president for marketing and media relations Maria Lava said in a statement.

Unlike other Philippine budget airlines that fly to Singapore, AirPhil Express operates out of Changi Airport Terminal 2.

The company said this would offer passengers "practical on time but well in the convenience of traveling through a premier terminal."

By Dec. 1, the company plans to start its daily 3 a.m. service to Singapore from Cebu.

"Singaporean tourists are only now really starting to leverage off pandas' appearances in the Philippines such as Penpen in Subic, Cassquito and Sarapao aside from various classic like Boracay. All we just see jump off point from our Cebu hub," Java said.

In the past month, the company said it extend the first run of four-round runs Airbus A320 aircraft, which were originally used for additional flights to Cebu and Davao, and for new routes to Legazpi and Tagbilaran direct from Manila.

The company said its passenger volumes for the months September and October have been the highest the airline has seen in its history.

Given the current growth rate, the company expects to spend $250 million to grow its fleet to 16 A320 aircraft from the current three. The aircraft, which has a range of around four hours, will allow the airline to fly to almost any city in Southeast Asian or to North Asian countries like China, Japan and Korea.

ROUNDUP

Magical moments with Kodak

DIGITAL IMAGING (DI) system of leadership in film, imaging and photography, Kodak Philippines, Ltd. consumers the chance to visit Hong Kong Disneyland and take home an enviable roster of prizes through its Capture the Magical Moment promo.

From Sept. 15 to Nov. 15, 10 lucky winners can take home tickets for an all-expense-paid trip with hotel accommodations for two, to experience the magical world of Hong Kong Disneyland.

To learn more about the promo and Kodak films and cameras, visit www.kodak.com and see posters, flyers, and print ads for details.

CEB offers seat sale

CEBU PACIFIC (CEB) cuts its Japan fares by 66 percent to boost international travel from Manila to Osaka from Dec. 1, 2010 until Feb. 28, 2011. The P1,999 "Go" seat sale is available from Oct. 28-30, 2010 for one-month fare.

For the same sale and travel period, CEB also promotes its Dark Style with a seat sale as low as P499.

The airline flies the most number of seats to and from the Cocolalo Mactan-Cebu International Airport, and is the first local airline to have one of its operational hubs in Cebu.

Regus brings back event

NOW ON its third year, Black Tie Brawl returns today at the Grand Ballroom of New World Hotel in Makati City.

Feel the rush as 16 crucial months in time of the Universal Realty Corridor Challenge (URC) battle each other while you sip on a martini and enjoy a refined dinner prepared by the Executive Chef of the hotel.

The Black Tie Brawl experience starts at 7 pm. Seats are limited, so buy your tickets now. For reservations and inquiries, please call Regus Magazine at (756) 743-8943 ext. 16, or visit www.regus.ph.

RP one of world's best . . .

From page B9

ment climate," accounts for 20 percent of the overall index and covers, stability of the political situation and of the capital market, the judicial system, accounting and governance standards for shareholders and transparency among MFIs.

The BEI notes that since the Philippine government adopted national strategy for microfinance in 1997, it has promoted deregulatory and policy framework that is conducive to microfinance activity.

"The government has encouraged the establishment of microfinance banks and the commercialization of the microfinance sector, and has specifically promoted the upgrading of 'non-governmental organizations,'" the BEI said.

The report also observed that although still very much credit-oriented, MFIs in the Philippines are able to offer a variety of services, and many do.

As an example, regulated MFIs can accept deposits, and those linked to the international payments system can accept remittances.

"Clients in the Philippines have a wide choice of service providers, including local and national institutions," the report said.

STOCKMARKET Quarterly

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
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Associate Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Bulls push stocks to unprecedented heights

Brokers, analysts say uptrend may continue through 2011

By Doris C. Dumlao

IT WAS highly anticipated, but when it came, even unbelievers moved quickly out. revised.

Not even the bloody hostage incident at the Quirino Grandstand and lingering economic uncertainties abroad could contain the rally that ensued.

The bull market is back.

Sure, the stock market has been riding since 2009 on the back of domestic money, apart from a presidential election that traditionally provides a boost to businesses.

But when the third quarter came around, foreign investors were knocking on PSE's door in droves, propping up daily

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STOCK QUARTERLY

NAME	2009 OPEN (KPW)	52-WEEK HIGH (KPW)	% CHANGE	2010 OPEN (JULY 1)	52-WEEK LOW (SEPT 30)	% CHANGE	TRADE VOLUME (1Q)	TRADE VALUE (1Q)
BANKS								
Dominion Development Bank, Inc.	1.1	1.5	36.36%	1.1	1.1	0.00%	2,100.00	(8,820.00)
Metro-Orient Philippine Bank	64.75	69.75	7.72%	68.00	58.5	-13.97%	104,561.00	6,888,369.75
Pan-U Pilipino Savings and Mortgage Bank	20	20	0.00%	20	20	0.00%	-	-
BEVERAGE								
Luzon Alcohol Industries, Inc.	49.5	49	-10.10%	47	49.5	10.48%	151,401.00	$ 116,171.00
Chua Beverage Corporation	250.00	412.00	72.00%	412.00	440	7.00%	1,000.00	440,512.00
Cinderella Water / Dew / Sweet Morning Dew	10	10	0.00%	10	11.5	15.00%	1,500.00	16,500.00
Hayabusa Sake Corporation	1.5	1.5	0.00%	1.5	1.5	0.00%	2,000.00	3,000.00
Inner Core Refreshments Water, Inc.A	0.24	0.26	8.33%	0.26	0.26	0.00%	-	-
Inspirational Bottled Water, Inc. A	0.26	0.26	0.00%	0.26	0.26	0.00%	-	-
Kapatagan Alcohol and Yeast Industries	0.25	0.25	0.00%	0.25	0.25	0.00%	542,000.00	13,676,500.00
Philippine Belmont Hotel	27.5	28.5	10.91%	28	28	7.69%	107,000.00	10,700,171.00
Philippine Carnival Bank	10.5	10	-9.52%	10	10	0.00%	1,000.00	10,000.00
Philippine Savings Bank	10.5	10	-9.52%	10	10	0.00%	10,000.00	3,000.00
Philippine Seven Corporation	10.5	10	-9.52%	10	10	0.00%	10,000.00	3,000.00
Philippine Yeast Company	30	28	-13.33%	28	30	10.00%	100.00	(2,800.00)
Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	49.5	49.5	0.00%	49.5	49.5	0.00%	10,000.00	495,000.00
Security Bank Corporation	49.5	49.5	0.00%	49.5	49.5	0.00%	10,000.00	1,000,000.00
Union Bank of the Philippines	49.5	49.5	0.00%	47	49.5	10.71%	96,000.00	1,896,000.00
CONSTRUCTION, REAL ESTATE AND HOTELS								
Alliance Global Group, Inc.	0.86	0.88	2.33%	0.88	0.9	2.27%	1,100.00	3,971.00
Ayala Land, Inc.	0.49	0.5	2.04%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	1,700.00	13,600.00
Cebu Holdings, Inc.	0.49	0.5	2.04%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	1,700.00	13,600.00
Megaworld Corporation	0.49	0.5	2.04%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	1,700.00	13,600.00
Robinsons Land Corporation	0.49	0.5	2.04%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	1,700.00	13,600.00
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER								
Alcantara Power Corporation	10.78	18.5	71.62%	18	18.5	2.78%	100,114.00	19,301,884.00
Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.	4.25	4.25	0.00%	4.25	4.25	0.00%	10,000.00	42,500.00
Energy Development Corp.	5.1	6.05	18.63%	6.05	6.05	0.00%	1,000.00	6,050.00
Energy Development Corp.	5.1	6.05	18.63%	6.5	6.05	-6.92%	1,000.00	6,050.00
First Gen Corporation	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
First Philippine Holdings Corp.	49.5	49.5	0.00%	49.5	49.5	0.00%	10,000.00	495,000.00
Manila Mining Corporation	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
Meralco Power Utilities, Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
Petrolite Corporation	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, Inc.	4.85	5.5	13.40%	5.05	5.5	8.91%	10,100.00	55,550.00
SPC Power Corporation	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.5	1.5	0.00%	1.5	1.5	0.00%	10,000.00	15,000.00
Vivant Corporation	49	51	4.08%	51	51	0.00%	10,000.00	510,000.00
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO								
Agrinurture, Inc.	0	0	0.00%	0.01	0.4	0.00%	10,000.00	4,000.00
Alliance Select Foods Int'l	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
Alliance Select Foods Int'l Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
Asia Brewery Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.00%	0.5	0.5	0.00%	10,000.00	5,000.00
Asia Brewing Company

Equities-linked investments in RP on a roll

By Rica T. Dichiendo

Mutual, investment trust funds capture Filipinos' attention

WITH INTEREST rates at record lows, most Filipinos are looking for ways to earn more from their money. Financial experts said to separate investments.

And those who are not ready to make a leap of faith into entrepreneurship, do not underestimate financial markets well as look the nerves of steel needed for stock trading have another investment option.

For them, professionally managed mutual funds and unit investment trust funds (UITFs) may be just the way to go.

Mutual funds

A mutual fund is a financial product offered by non-bank institutions that pool a large number of small investments by selling shares. Professional fund managers invest the proceeds in diversified assets, such as bonds, government securities and equities.

UITFs are similar to mutual funds but are offered by banks.

"Equities and equities-linked funds are on the high side but there's room for growth. Investors should think long-term and buy primarily for dividend yields so they don't panic during corrections. Also, they should buy mutual funds from trusted fund managers," BDO Capital & Investment Corp president Edundo V. Francisco said.

According to Hilbert Asset Management Corp. chief executive officer and president Emmanuel Gonzales, there is optimism in the mutual fund industry that local stocks are still relatively undervalued and there growth in the next year or so would boost the performance of mutual funds.

This, in turn, would attract more investors to equity-based funds.

"Now is a good time to buy mutual funds. Take advantage of low interest rates and consider the proportions of analysts, who say the PSE (Philippine Stock Exchange) index could hit 4,500 to 5,000 next year," Asiavest Securities, managing director of broker age and investment advisory firm First Grade Holdings, said.

The PSEi closed at 4,184.06 on Oct. 22.

But will the bull run in stocks last? Experts say the beauty of investing in a mutual fund is that it is professional fund managers make the investment decisions for the investor does not have to.

Thus, timing is not much of a concern for mutual fund investors, said Hector de Leon, executive vice president of First Metro Asset Management Inc., which offers several mutual fund products.

Small investments

"A common mistake for investors is to treat mutual funds as a ground for stocks. Those who have the cash and time to be in control of the stock trades are better off investing directly. Mutual funds are better for people who want the benefit of being able to make small investments over time and having a fund manager take care of their investments," De Leon said.

The mutual funds industry was at P79 billion as of June 2010, already larger than the P60 billion at end-2009. UITFs, meanwhile, reached P117 billion as of June 2010, according to BSP data.

Mutual funds have been available in the Philippines for decades, but it was only around 2007 that the industry gained momentum, according to Morales.

At the time, she said, the PSE index was at 3,000 and many who could not participate in the stock market invested in mutual funds. The introduction of UITFs also helped educate investors on pooled funds.

Then the market dropped in 2008 as the global economic recession took hold. A lot of investors pulled out but others could see then they would have incurred large losses. Instead, they held onto shares until prices climbed back up to at least the same levels when they bought those shares, or a little higher.

"Because of the drop, a lot of investors stayed away from mutual funds even when the market started to recover in 2009," Morales said.

As the equities market gets stronger this year, more things are happening, according to Morales.

Then is that new investors are buying mutual funds/shares as equities market improves and investor rates remain low, making people look for better yields compared to bank savings, when money yields an interest rate of less than 1 percent a year.

The other phenomenon is that those who had held on to investments throughout the financial crisis are now cashing in.

"The funny thing is that many are getting their mutual fund earnings to their deposit. In the first place, the low yields in bank savings were what drove these investors to mutual funds," Morales said.

Loads of savings

Financial experts said that investors should understand the pros and cons of investing in order to stay focused on their investment strategy and avoid emotional decisions that could derail their financial plans.

"In a bank deposit, the principal is the amount of money deposited is preserved. But then, there's very little earnings, if any in mutual funds or UITFs, bonds, and stocks, the possibility of making more than the normal interest comes the risk that they will lose their principal investment," Francisco said.

Simply, bank depositors can expect guaranteed principal but any earnings, if any, will be very small. Investors, meanwhile, can expect principal risk but enjoy higher yield potential.

It is also important to start researching early to be able to maximize the returns, the experts said. All agreed that regular investments allow an investor to average gains and losses over time and not have to worry too much about market movements.

"The longer you stay in equities and equities-linked investments, your potential gains are higher. That's why it's good for investors to start young. Even an initial investment of P5,000 and then subsequent monthly payments of P1,000 should still earn more to 10 or 20 years than simple savings," Francisco said.

Among BSP's basic markers for its monthly investment programs are students, who are encouraged to regularly set aside part of their money for mutual fund placements.

Getting motivated to invest is one always easy, however, when students are beset with so much temptation to spend.

Prioritizing investment

"It's good to start by thinking of your goals and then prioritize. For example, decide how much money you want to have when you retire. Then work back and compute how much you should be investing now if your mutual funds would earn, say, 12 percent a year. The monthly amount is likely to be small because you have time to build your wealth," De Leon said.

It really is good to set aside something for investment first and then live within the budget that is left, instead of the other way around, Morales said.

Many of BMI's clients give us 12 postdated checks every year or enroll in a payroll deduction systems if their company supports it. PMFI is also working on accommodating automatic bank debit in the future," she said.

PMFI not only educates students on 9-to-5 jobs. It also teaches me to convert entrepreneurs, conducting seminars at various companies to advise young professionals on how to make the most out of their relatively high salary.

Finally, financial experts said that investors should never put all their money in just one financial product.

Francisco said, "My general advice is to buy selectively and diversify investments. Diversify within, for example, could have 20 to 30 percent of their money in equities and equity-linked investments, another 30 percent in bank savings for easy access, perhaps another 30 percent in real estate, and perhaps 10 percent in education."

Del Castillo recommended a similar investment pyramid," with added advice: Learn how to sell.

He said: "Investors, in time, should also know how to sell and how to reinvest well. Look for as many opportunities as is possible this year.

Be up to date and more importantly don't be greedy."

Wooing prospective investors in major infrastructure projects

By Bernard W. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT is set to gather in the third week of November private investors from here and around the globe, hoping to entice them to key infrastructure projects that are expected to help maintain the economy's growth rates of more than 7 percent.

In summing that growth should be felt across various socio-economic groups, the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) is looking to public-private partnerships (PPPs) as a means to fund infrastructure and services for both the national and local governments.

Addressing transport gaps

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Captain Pi Pedroso, Jr. said in an interview that a focus of the government's PPP thrust is linking multimodal transport systems to identified growth centers in the regions.

Pedroso was referring to areas that involve air, sea and road transportation modes within and between islands.

"Addressing transportation gaps and completing the whole transport infrastructure toward those centers should be pursued as these will help lessen the cost of doing business in the country," he said. "It is important that the LGUs have already pre-identified projects for PPP so that the team can prioritize utilized means of government will be undertaken."

As for the private sector, Metro Pacific Investment Corp. has been most vocal in expressing any interest in the government's PPP plans.

MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, in a recent interview with Malaya Business, said the company was looking at possible ventures in airports, railways and roadways.

In particular, MPIC has been pushing for the government to come up with a mass-rapid-transit development plan for the Clark-Subic-Metropolis International to-port (SMIP) at the Clark Freeport in Pampanga.

Pangilinan said a mass-rapid-transit development plan for the SMIP should be included in the potentials list of private-public partnership (PPP) infrastructure projects.

At the moment, only the construction of a city terminal at SMIP is included on the government's list of PPPs.

"We're looking at the total airport project," Pangilinan said, adding that that may include a big-air terminal and a high-speed railway system linking Clark and Metro Manila.

"Officials of certain airlines tell us they have no problem in moving their Philippine operations in Clark from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City) provided that there is a high-speed rail service," Pangilinan added.

Also, MPIC in September announced plans to raise at least P7.5 billion in fresh equity to partly fund the construction of three infrastructure projects worth P25 billion.

The first two, known as the Harbor Link or segments 9 and 10 of the Ninoy Aquino Expressway have a combined length of eight kilometers.

The Harbor Link will connect NLEx from Valenzuela to the North Harbor area in Manila. The third project will be the so-called "easterior road," a 11-kilometer elevated toll road from North Harbor to the Metro Manila Skyway along Jose Gil Puyat Avenue.

These three projects are meant to establish a seamless connection of the NLEx and the South Luzon Expressway.

The Neda has identified for toll cost over 10 other PPP projects, including the development of a city terminal for the SMIA in Clark—altogether worth an estimated total of at least P170 billion.

The other projects are the P9-billion MRT/LRT expansion project; P1.5-billion MRT line 2 extension; P7.34-billion new Bohol airport; P36-billion Puerto Princesa airport; P21-billion/SLEX-SLEX link expressway; P38.5-billion Cavite-Laguna expressway-Manila elevated-way; and the P9.06-billion Davao International Airport.

Identifying partners

Also on the list are the privatization of Laguindingan Airport operations and maintenance, and the supply of leased bulk water for Metro Manila, but terms for these are yet to be finalized.

The government intends to start identifying partners for these projects come May 10-10 during the global conference, themed "Infrastructure Philippines: Investing and financing opportunities in PPP projects."

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima had said that during the conference, participation to the 10 projects would be offered to companies from the United States, Europe, Japan and the Middle East.

Without going to details, the Finance chief added that the government is promising guarantees to entities for projects that face regulatory risks, such as possible occupancy restraining orders from the courts.

He said PPPs on environmental projects have been the focus of multilateral investors, who said up very reluctant to venture again in the Philippines.

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Analysts bet big on infra, real estate stocks

By Doris C. Dumlao

TO HELP guide retail investors who either manage their portfolios or invest in equity-based funds, the Inquirer has asked three investment experts – two leading fund managers and the research chief of the largest online stock brokerage firm – to identify the top three stocks they favor for the remainder of the year.

They have a a long list of stocks scraped with a "buy" recommendation but the following are their respective top three choices.

April Lyn Leo-Tan
Head of research, Citiseclink Online

Filinvest Land Inc. (FLI): "It's a play on strong demand for residential properties. There's upside potential as our fair value estimate.

Aseanisa Mining Corp. (ACC): "It's a cheaper and more direct way to participate in the growth story of power distributor Manila Electric Co. and construction firm DMCI Holdings."

First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPH): "It's a cheaper way to own geothermal power giant Energy Development Corp. and Meralco. There's upside potential given the company's cash board and plans to participate in public-private sector partnership."

Theresa Marcial-Javier
Senior vice president/head of asset management and trust group, Bank of the Philippine Islands

Ayala Land Inc. (ALI): "The low interest rate regime and a strong 5.8 percent growth in remittances from overseas Filipino workers will lend support to real estate. The retail space investment trust (REIT) is also seen to enhance ALI's net asset value for unbundling as rental and property prices are holding up."

Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPI): "This is an infrastructure play. The current thrust of the government of improving infrastructure bodes well for the company."

Universal Robina Corp. (URC): "Its international business is expected to grow by 20 percent by next year. Net income for the first three quarters at P6.1 billion already exceeded its P5.8 billion full-year income last year."

ATR KIMENG Securities is country's best broker

ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. (ATRSI) was voted once more by readers of "Deal Weekly" as the Philippines' leading financial joint stock online publication. Congratulations to its 2008 Country Awards for Achievement, an annual look at the best financial services firms in each country around the region.

This is the fourth time, and the third consecutive year that ATRSI Securities was bestowed the best broker award by the Hong Kong-based Finance Asia. This brokerage house was cited once again for its superior research, sales, and execution capabilities.

ATRSI Securities also ranked no. 1 in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) in terms of value turnover in 2008, making it the PSE's top stock broker for the year. Its total turnover value of P57.9 billion ranked for almost 4% foreign broker companies.

The company has remained active in the capital market this year. A total turnover value of P13.8 billion in June gave it an 11.80% share of the market and the no. 1 position at the PSE's Trading Participants' Ranking Report.

"Despite the challenging environment in the capital markets, Finance Asia's recognition is a testament to the ability and hard work of the people we have in our brokerage team," said ATRSI Senior Executive Vice President and President Lorenzo Tanate. "Our teams are driven by one objective and that is to treat each client as a partner. Through continuous investments in talent and product we hope to provide our clients with value added investment advice that helps them achieve their equity portfolio objectives," he added.

ATRSI Securities, the retail brokerage arm of publicly listed ATR KimEng Financial Corporation, provides extensive sales, research and execution capabilities to both foreign and domestic investors, institutional and retail. Today has an international distribution capability in Singapore, Hong Kong, the United States and the United Kingdom through the offices of Kim Eng Holdings Ltd., a publicly listed company in Singapore.

"ATRSI will continue to be challenging given the competitive landscape but it is important for us to remain client focused. Our competitive strengths, however, should provide the leverage for us to maintain our standing among the top brokers in the country," said Tanate.

Paul Joseph Garcia
Chief executive officer, NG Investment Management

Cebu Air Inc. (CEB): "It has a 46.5 percent market share and it is the third largest low-cost carrier (LCC) in Asia. It has a significant cost advantage versus FSC and other competitors as it has the highest attributable net margin among global LCCs. Domestic growth may be driven by structural shift in preference for air overseas travel. International growth may be driven by low fares stimulating demand from leisure travelers and overseas Filipino workers."

Philippine National Bank (PNB): " The merger with allied bank will catapult it to the fourth position in the banking industry with total assets of about P482 billion. It's a pseudo-property play as its foreclosed assets amount to almost half of its market capitalization. Asset revaluation and joint venture with property developers can unlock the value of these foreclosed assets. It is still trading below industry price to book value (PBV)."

DMCI Holdings Inc. (DMC): "Subsidiary Semirara Mining Corp. is benefiting from persistent supply bottlenecks in both power generation and coal. Many utility companies, among the largest privately run power utilities in the world, is seeing significant improvements in operations after years of under-investment. Construction arm DM Consunji is the best early cycle play on infrastructure play with about P40 billion worth of backlog orders. DMCI Homes is one of only two large-scale property developers that is actually booking in true of capital."

Want to buy and sell stocks? Do it online

By Michelle V. Rono

THE INTERNET has undoubtedly made life easy. With it, one can be spared from the long queues when paying his bills or transacting with the bank.

With Internet, one can do his shopping or trading right in the comforts of his home. But trading via the Internet is not limited to buying and selling of clothes, bags, shoes and other consumer products. One can do stock trading online, too.

Online stock trading is easy. To start, one only needs to open an account with an online brokerage firm. All the transactions that will be made by the investor will be reflected in this account.

CitiseeOnline president and chief executive officer Cesenaldo E. Ruiz says online trading is also affordable. One can open an account with online stock-broker CitiseeOnline, for instance, with an investment of only P5,000.

Ruiz says CitiseeOnline charges a commission of only 0.25 percent of the gross amount of a transaction.

The other fees imposed on stock transactions are the 12 percent value-added tax, the Philippine Stock Exchange's transaction fee of 0.005 percent of the amounts involved and the 0.01-percent fee charged by the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines.

Ruiz says the launch of online trading participants has grown steadily since the system was started in 2003.

Today, there are about 30,000 investors availing online in the country. About 15,000 of them are clients of CitiseeOnline, he adds.

"We expect online stocks trading to continue to attract more participants even the next five years given the benefits derived from the activity," Ruiz tells the Inquirer.

He says online stock trading allows one access to a huge stock of information relevant to equities investments. CitiseeOnline, for instance, regularly sends out materials containing vast information to clients, he adds.

"The Internet serves as a platform for the distribution of vast research and other materials to all of its clients. That is an advantage for retail investors," Ruiz says. "Unlike the Internet, an individual broker cannot accommodate all clients to provide analysis of the market and of specific stocks at a given time."

CitiseeOnline gives its clients research materials and holds seminars for people interested in learning more about online stock trading, he bids.

The free seminars are held at the office of CitiseeOnline in Ortigas Center three times a week. It also holds seminars for employees of corporate clients.

Ruiz says online stock trading is popular and a common activity in developed countries, including the United States and Japan.

In the Philippines, he says, there is still a huge room for more online stock trading participants. He says he is confident that online trading will become more popular to investors over the short- to medium-term given efforts to educate more Filipinos about it.

Downturn puts spotlight on corporate governance

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SEC, of late, is about a decade ago, geared the eyes of not only corporate America, but the whole world to the important role that good corporate governance plays in every business...has maybe not wide enough.

In 2000, the SEC encouraged to repair itself in the eye of the Lehman Brothers. The effects were disastrous: another giant fell, dragging almost the entire world economy with it.

The companies might not have been the same, but both downfalls would be blamed largely on corporate governance failure.

In both cases, top executives were able to get away with something pretty close to murder in the corporate world—right under the noses of their boards and auditors.

Stepping up efforts

This time, the corporate world seemed to have learned its lesson, including Philippine firms.

According to Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) chair Antonio Borromeo, "quite a lot" of local firms were doing well in the area of good corporate governance, particularly those listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

RP firms find value in doing things right

Citing the results of the 2009 Corporate Governance Scorecard, he said local companies had clearly stepped up their corporate governance efforts, with the overall score of listed firms averaging between 71 and 75 percent from the previous average of 64 to 66 points.

"Around 30 of the corporate bigwigs are in the 90s, but some 30 others are in the 40s-50s. The average doesn't show the real picture. The companies that are scoring high have a weight of 89 percent to Philippine Stock Exchange, etc. we would have scored higher overall," he said.

According to ICD, the Corporate Governance Scorecard ranks publicly listed firms' performance in such as set of important governance criteria, including policies and practices relating to rights of shareholders, equitable treatment of shareholders, role of shareholders, disclosure and transparency and board responsibilities.

In the 2009 Scorecard, 11 companies garnered a score of 91 points and above, placing them under the AAA category of securities. These corporate governance high scorers included Ayala Corp., Ayala Land Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Holdings Inc., Cebu Properly Ventures and Development Corp., Energy Development Corp., First Gen Corp., First Philippines Holdings Corp., Globe Telecom Inc., Manila Water Co. Inc. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Nineteen firms, on the other hand, landed on the Silver category after scoring between 86 and 90 points.

While happy with the results of the 2009 Scorecard, Borromeo said other companies that were not doing as well needed to step up, and soon.

Efficiency, good reputation

For listed firms, good corporate governance did not just mean getting high marks on the ICD Scorecard.

Philippine Stock Exchange compliance unit department senior manager Rina Dilbala noted that good corporate governance practices had both tangible and intangible benefits for companies.

"Corporate governance leads to operational efficiency & additional value, reduces risk and lowers a company's expenditure. It also adds value to a company's shares," she said.

To promote higher standards of corporate governance, she said the PSE came up with the Market Based Incentive Program for companies that were score above the set in terms of corporate governance.

She said the global financial crisis placed a spotlight on corporate governance, not just in the United States where the problem started, but also in the Philippines.

"Because of the financial crisis, focus on corporate governance has been heightened. Everybody's looking at that angle," she said.

Economic impact

Beyond just benefits to individual firms, good corporate governance practices also had far-reaching benefits for the general economy.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, these companies played pivotal roles in a country's economy, good corporate governance affected an increasingly large part of the population.

"Corporate governance is one key element in improving economic efficiency and growth as well as enhancing investor confidence... The presence of an effective corporate governance system, within an individual company and across an economy as a whole, helps to provide a degree of confidence that is necessary for the proper functioning of a market economy. As a result, the cost of capital is lower and firms are encouraged to use resources more efficiently, thereby underpinning growth," the preambles of the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance stated.

Bulls push stocks . . .

value investors and lifting the market to all-time highs.

The catalyst is a confluence of many factors, including a "scintillating" second-quarter growth, solid dividend yields on long, term bond income, earnings rate that are in owners assembling for better investment options.

Many foreign investors previously ignored the Philippine market, given its relatively low market capitalization. But with the post economic and corporate growth numbers, alongside a successful resolution of the country's first automated elections, the country is now back on investors' radar screens.

Even the best-case scenario has been reached as the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index climbed to dizzying heights, passing through 4,000 in mid-September, prompting many analysts to upgrade their outlook on the stock market.

For the first nine months of this year, the PSEi surged 34.1 percent or 1,047.59 points, making it the second best performing equity market in Asia after Indonesia. Most half of that rally was seen in the month of September alone, when the index added 522.64 points or 15 percent to end at 4,100.67. Quarter-on quarter, the PSEi jumped 22 percent at end-September.

Now trading on northbound territory, the index has been hitting one historic highs almost every week, and any slight dip is merely seen as a renewed opportunity to buy.

Based on the PSE's initial estimates, average daily value turnover for the nine-month period in the local bourse rose to P4.6 billion from P4.1 billion in the same period last year. In September alone, value turnover usually exceeded P6 billion in most days.

The share price appreciation has jacked up market capitalization of all listed companies to P7.4 trillion as of end-September from P5.8 trillion in the same period last year.

"It's hard to stop a train full of cash," said none-the-Castillo, managing director at fund management firm First Grade Holdings.

"There's rational exuberance among investors," said DBS Investment Management chief executive officer Joseph Cayetano, who noted that investors were buying fund stocks as a vote of confidence on economic fundamentals and the good climate of corporate earnings.

Prolonged uptrend

Even as stock prices were rising, Garcia said, corporate earnings were surging at a faster pace, thus making stocks still a good buy.

Garcia added that the Philippines was also starting to attract high-quality Boom-Boom investor funds, which tend to stay longer in lieu of hedge funds, whose volatile flows could be regarded as dicey.

After narrowly escaping a recession in 2009, Philippine gross domestic product accelerated by 7.9 percent year-on-year during the first six months, the highest annual growth seen since 1988. The 91-day benchmark treasuries bill and inflation rates have also remained benign.

Momentum in the stock market remains strong, especially now that many listed companies are sure to end the year with record high profits.

April Lee Tan, head of research at leading online stockbrokerage DirectOnline, said the Philippines would see a bullish market through 2011. He said under this bull market, economic growth would pick up steam on the back of increasing wealth among domestic consumers, numerous investment opportunities and a strong financial system.

Stocks will trade at higher or more-of-premium levels, he said, as the PSEi as a 3,398 as-earnings per share will likely grow 37.7 percent from levels seen in 2007 when the market last hit record highs, he said. Investors are expected to pay a higher price to buy stocks, whose earnings potentials are expected to rise, she said.

Tan estimated that the local stock market may trade as high as a PE ratio of 13 times, which she said was nearing the historical average valuations of 15. 16x, but still far from the PE ratio of 28 times seen during the Asian crisis.

A company trading on a PE ratio of 13x or more should be happy are paying 13X times the amount of money the firm is making in a given year. A higher PE ratio means that investors believe that past earnings may be modest compared with future prospects.

While local stocks would not be cheap compared with those being traded in other parts of the region, Tan noted that over the long term, valuations would rise in other markets and thus investors could be able to spur good buys in the Philippine equities market.

Best performers

By sectoral indices, the counter for holding firms emerged as the best performers during the nine-month period, climbing 93.1 percent. This was not surprising as this counter—which includes top conglomerates Ayala Corp., SM Investments Corp., Alcantar Equity Ventures Inc., JG Summit Holdings Inc., Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and Lopez Holdings Corp.—is seen as a proxy to the real economy.

Companies in the industrial, financial, mining and oil, and service sectors likewise performed well as their indices surged 46.1 percent, 48 percent, 14.6 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, some companies took heart from the buoyant stock markets to raise fresh funds, mostly through a stock rights offering or the issuance of preferred shares. During the nine-month period, companies raised a total of P48.1 billion from the stock market, a 690.2-percent increase from the levels in the same period last year. Companies that raised new funds from the local bourse were Bank of the Philippine Islands, First Gen Corp., Integrated Microwave Corp., Philodrilling Resources Corp., Petron Corp. and Semirara Mining Corp. for the period.

A much-awaited offering of more than $40B million—the first for the year—was conducted by Gokongwei-led Cebu Air Inc., operator of budget airline Cebu Pacific.

Next on the IPO pipeline is the Sarsons' Nickel Asia Corp., which will sell shares in November worth up to $15B million.

Riding the bulls

They say that in a bull market, every person is a genius because with any stock he or she picks, there is little chance that it will finish the quizzed.

It's overwhelming in markets like this that finding the outperformers is the greatest challenge, and this is where expert advice from fund managers and equity researchers come in, especially for those who have little time or expertise to monitor the markets.

Today, less than one-half of one percent of Filipinos invest in the stock market. This means that a very small percentage of the population are aware of the opportunities in having a portion of their portfolio invested in this asset class.

The index has been posting new historic highs almost every week and any slight dip is merely seen as a renewed opportunity to buy.

PLDT HELPS PUT LOCAL BPOS UP TO WORLD-CLASS STANDARDS

Speaking (right) at the "International Outsourcing Summit: Global Market, Global Haven" at SMX Convention Plaza, PLDT Senior Vice President Ma. E. Mendoza talked on the "The Role of ICT in the BPO Sector" and PLDT's fabulous role in marketing and developing the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry throughout the Philippines. "PLDT in doing that, partly because of the BPO industry's spill-down multiplier effects for the nation. The BPOs, he said, have created employment for the country's economy on wealth—and contributed to a wider base of Filipino through job creation and increased consumer spending. The International Outsourcing Summit is the gathering of the industry's top CEOs and leaders to address the development challenges in the next few years and the opportunities ready to materialize for the Philippines internationally. The event is now organized by the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP), uniting the seven business-related trade associations: Association of Contact Center Industry, Inc. (Accenture), ICT Consultants Association (Computer & Communications Office/Philippines), Casual Union, ITP and Information Technology Association of the Philippines Inc., Mike Enriquez, Vice President of Telus Consultancy Services and Ernest Cu, Presidential Adviser for Information Technology and Business Process Management.

Carmina Mayo Morsa Reyes (CMMA)

BEST VALUES-BASED MEDIA WORKS HONORED AT 32ND CMMA

2ST no-hosts event as part of Quadricentennial Year celebrations

THE leading Catholic institution, based a first-time partnership with the University of Santo Tomas on January last Oct. 31 the 32nd Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) at the UST Miguelan auditorium at the UST Campus on España Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

The CMMA became the venue for the 2008, a multi-award grand of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila, at the initiative of the UST administration headed by Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, rector, for the purpose of making the awards event part of the university's lineup of major activities in preparation for its 400th foundation anniversary in 2011.

Following is the complete list of CMMA Winners:

2010 CMMA WINNERS

High Time To Look At High-End Real Estate

The trading floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange has been abuzz with an optimistic outlook on the Philippine economy, and the good news has been resonating to the discerning Filipino consumer.

A great swell in investments and spending in the Philippine market has been attributed to the shift in government and the recuperation of the global economy. With the country's gross domestic product growing to more than 7% in 2010 over 2009, investors and consumers alike are riding the wave of the bullish market.

Booming sectors of the moment are property, power, banking and consumer industries. So where is the best place to put your money right now?

Increase Your Assets

With the safest and highest appreciation in value and consistent return in modal yields, prime real estate is where they say smarter people invest. Whether it be creating their new home, looking ahead and buying for their children, leasing it out or simply adding it to their portfolio, many of those with fatter checkbooks invest in real estate. And the market is agreeing right now.

Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia (CLSA) sees the rapid pick up of all segments in the Philippine property market in the foreseeable future. "Prices have been moving upin recent years especially for high-end residential condos and, house-and-lots," says Alfred Uy, Head of Research. Choice locations for real estate still lie in Makati and Bonifacio area. With key positions being falling interest rates and rising per capita income, everything seems to be working in the prospective buyer's favor.

Rockwell properties are and will definitely be considered assets on your portfolio, with pre-selling prices per sqm steadily increasing per year. Those who have invested as far back as 1998 have now more than doubled their money with a capital values appreciation of 135%. Furthermore, Rockwell residences appear to have the highest rental yield in Metro Manila.

The Rockwell Magic

With the proliferation of high-end real estate developers in the market today, President Nestor J. Padilla knows that Rockwell is a cut above the rest. "We have raised the bar in terms of quality, design, attention and detail, and everyone else just follows suit," he says.

The Rockwell magic is not only about superior attention to aesthetics, character and charm of the community, groundbreaking tower features, function and detail, but also includes the personalized customer service Rockwell extends to its residents, tenants and unit owners.

Likewise intelligent about Rockwell believes in working with nature and not against it, as all structures are built to withstand intense calamities such as earthquakes and flooding. It is no wonder why some property values here have nearly doubled in the past ten years.

The continuous development of Rockwell has even appreciated the land value of pods neighboring our property.

Claiming the New Standard of Prestige

Rockwell Land, determined to retain its bar on unparalleled luxury, now launches The Estates Tower and Garden Villas. The Estates is incomparably opulent. Two-storey Garden Villas, which gracefully spill over from the main tower, boasts of extensive balcony space for one's private teens and gardens.

Amenities exclusive to residents include a top-of-the-line fitness and leisure center, large multi-purpose function rooms, serene pocket gardens and pools, upscale retail establishments and concealed underground access to Power Plant Mall. Services from retail establishments around Rockwell Center will also be brought into the privacy of Estates residents' homes—whether it be a food appointment from the most exclusive salons, private fitness sessions from the most sought-after gym trainers or personal attendants from top-notch retailers—everything is truly at the fingertips of the Estates resident.

Owning a piece of Rockwell does not just give you bragging rights. Right now, it is also the best investment you can make.

SMALL GOES BIG LEAGUE HERE.

ROCKWELL

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Business Features Editor
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Will dole-outs pull families out of poverty?

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE P21 BILLION budget for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or the 4Ps has passed the House of Representatives. This program for conditional cash transfers or CCTs now awaits full Congress approval. It is an ambitious project that has expanded rapidly.

The 4Ps began with only 6,000 households in four pilot municipalities and two cities. Then by the start of 2009, it reached more than 320,000 beneficiary households in 38 provinces. The 2011 draft budget now proposes covering 2.3 million households.

But these conditional cash transfers remain in the throes of controversy. The program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) still draws flak for encouraging a dole-out mentality.

Indeed, dole-outs will not pull the indigent out of poverty. What will really work for them is to be gainfully employed, to give their children adequate education, and to keep the whole family in good health. Income well-paid employment is beyond the scope of the DSWD—it involves the whole range of economic management. What the 4Ps have then are the latter two.

Many think that the CCTs follow this line: "Here is some money to help you, but there are strings attached." No, it is better put as: "Here are the pennies that will fill you out of poverty. And here is a cash incentive for you to engage in those pennies."

The following are some of the pennies or conditions required by the 4Ps program.

•Children 0-14 years old must attend at least 85 percent of their class days in elementary or high school. Under sanity is the proposal that children 3-5 years old must attend daycare or preschool also 85 percent of the time.

•Children 0-5 years must get full immunization.

•Children 0-5 years must attend regular growth monitoring sessions.

•Children 0-14 years must take deworming pills twice a year.

•Childhood diseases must be managed at the health centers.

•Mothers must get breastfeeding counseling.

•Mothers must visit the health center at least three times in their pregnancy for pre-natal care.

•Mothers must have their birth assisted by a skilled attendant.

•Mothers must get at least one post-natal care session within six months of their latest delivery.

These are all conditionalities under the 4Ps program. The bottom poor families that comply with them will get P500 each plus P300 for each child (a maximum of 3), for a total of P 1,400 per month.

Won't the money be wasted on those who are not really bottom poor? This criticism applies to the old anti-poverty programs. There was a time when anyone could buy cheap subsidized rice. Hence the subsidy got wasted on the non-poor, the middle class, and even some rich who allegedly need the rice to feed their pets. The old anti-poverty programs also favored the "political poor" or those districts that voted for the incumbent local leaders. In contrast, the 4Ps use as a list of destitute families that came out of a national statistic survey.

Won't the money be spent on the father's alcohol and gambling? The creators are actually banking more on the mothers—who are arguably more concerned with the family's top priorities.

Won't the 4Ps encourage the bottom poor to multiply like rabbits? But the program covers a maximum of three children previously.

Won't the program encourage mendicancy and long-term dependence? But the beneficiaries know that they will be screened only for a maximum of five years. Mendicancy applies rather to the just-poppers. Benjamin Diokno, a professor of the UP School of Economics, put it well: "Mendicancy is when you ask the poor to line up in provincial capitols or city halls or congressional district offices for free medicines or a kilo of rice. Mendicancy is when you ask the poor to queue in congressional district offices for scholarships in high schools, TESDA training centers, or colleges."

Won't the CCTs make the poor lazy and opt not to work? Applying simple math to helpful. Assume 30 days in a month, and 5 members of the family (the national average), and that the entire sum goes to food. The P1,400 per month is equal to around P72.33 per meal per person.

Online brand community is the new Pinoy status symbol

By Princess Daisy C. Ortaliz

"GUEST—LIKE. "Easy Entry"—follows. "Apple iPad"—join community.

If those made sense to you, then you've probably heard of the new Pinoy status symbol—becoming a member of an online brand community. Being "in" nowadays is just a click away—all you need to do is to "like," "follow on Twitter," or "join." If you want to know the latest on gadgets, then join a gadget community. Want to keep up with who's going out with whom on the hottest TV series? "Like" their Facebook fanpage. Is your fave NBA star winning his contract? Read his tweets.

According to the latest findings of the UM Wave 5 study—one of the world's largest and longest running examinations of the impact of social media on today's global marketplace, the Philippines is the second most connected country where netizens have embraced a social relationship with brands online: forty-six percent of Filipino social media users have joined an online brand community driven by two primary motivations: (1) to associate with something they think is cool, and (2) to get exclusive news of products.

Compared with our Asian counterparts, Filipinos take pride in being the first to "swear" brands in the digital world. The results of the survey clearly show that Filipinos have a penchant for badges, regardless of social standing. One event that connotes Pinoy behavior of flaunting brands one mouse-click is the digital world.

The study also reveals that Filipinos' fondness of content creation and sharing has increased this year, with 81 percent responding that sending and sharing video clips are our first hobby that we most often. Aside from this, they also spend time online visiting their friends' social network site pages or read blogs.

Another major finding in the UM Wave 5 study is the robust growth of microblogging. It has swiftly become the latest growing social media platform, both on global and local scale. In the Philippines alone, usage of microblogging service like Twitter shot up from 50 percent last year to 80 percent in 2012. It must be the fact that the users do not need an enormous amount of time to create a content, yet it still keeps them in the constant stream of news, updates and opinions.

A significant shift in social media in recent years is the ubiquity of users to engage via mobile devices. Local findings show that 58 percent of active Internet users now access the web through their devices. Most phones nowadays have applications that make the user access social network sites easily. Going through Facebook, it is not uncommon to see people updating their status "via Facebook Mobile" or "via iPhone."

Global research shows that younger demographics use the social media platforms as one-stop shops for transacting with their peers. From direct messaging to pictures and information sharing, everything is condensed in a single space. Therefore, tapping into that space is increasingly more valuable to brands, with social media communities often pointing to be more effective than traditional media outlets.

According to the study, among Pinoy active Internet users who joined a brand community, 85 percent thought more positively about the brand as a result, 85 percent say they are more likely to buy the brand, 80 percent feel loyalty to it, and 74 percent recommend others to join. And considering how Filipinos want to be "in," these recommendations will be motivating to join, and most probably buy the products.

Those clearly demonstrate that the "socialization of brands" is a major shift in how brands are communicating with consumers. And with those in mind, figures, and trends, it is likely to continue going forward and should make other brands take it seriously.

Walking the talk of environmental care in Cebu

By Armin Adina

DISCUSSIONS ON global warming is a currently occurring phenomenon and it's harmful effects to the planet rush the backseat at The Go Green Cebu, but last month as speakers lectured more on adaptation and mitigation measures.

The guests' insights on global warming reveal their confidence that the natural catastrophe is now generally accepted by peoples around the world, dispelling theories by naysayers that climate changes is merely a myth.

Local and foreign environmental experts and inspirational speakers talked to members of the audience, students and other participants who gathered at Shangri-la's Mactan Resort and Spa in the province of Cebu, which hosted the two-day environment fair, a follow-up to last year's successful edition.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa City shows how much difference political will makes.

Hagedorn says when he assumed office in 1992, he also inherited the city's problems including an imbalanced ecosystem.

He was able to achieve a 180-degree turn for the city with environmental conservation projects that encouraged citizens to take part in rebuilding Puerto Princesa.

Two million trees have been planted under his watch and 90 percent of the city's forest coverage has been restored. He also organized watchmen to guard the city's forest and water resources.

Hagedorn's bold moves not only elevated Puerto Princesa to the Hall of Fame of the Clinton and Seydoux Citizs Awards, it also spurred the city's tourism and agriculture industries.

A well-managed environment, Hagedorn stresses, sustains a city's food requirements, and protects the residents' health.

"The environment can do without us, we cannot do without the environment," Hagedorn states.

Sen. Jose Miguel Tolibi, meanwhile, showed photos from his previous trip in California in the United States where he chanced upon a hotel due to corporate energy-conserving facilities, to minimize the people's greenhouse gas emissions.

He talk "Renewable Energy: The Business Perspective" showed Costa Rica's cars harnessing clean solar energy, cars water for some of the hotel's needs, as well as its unique piping system which allows it to retain water from bathing and hand washing for use in toilets and irrigation.

Costa Rican adds, also uses specially designed lighting fixtures which reflect sunlight to illuminate the hotel's dark areas. The hotel also offers free electric car charging to encourage guests to use hybrid automobiles and further decrease carbon emissions in the atmosphere.

"Mother Earth is sick," Tolibi exclaims, saying measures to address rising temperatures must be incorporated in every business endeavor, not only in hotels and buildings.

Shangri-la Mactan general manager Joachim Schairer, on his part, reveals that the sprawling 5-star property on Mactan Island is the first hotel facility in the Philippines to receive the ISO 14001 recognition for all its operations, which means it is, thereby responsible environmental practices in all aspects of its business.

Rey Tito Sequito, executive director of the Sto. Niño de Cebu Social Development Foundation Inc., on the other hand, reveals that saving for the environment need not be confined to business practices.

He tells "Evangelical Evangelization" says practicing good obligations also include protecting the environment.

The priest reveals the Church's plan to become carbon neutral in the future. As a first step, the Mission installed solar panels to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, thus minimizing the emission of greenhouse gases.

In Cebu, Sequito also celebrated a "Mass for the Environment" during the recent Sinulog Festival. The celebration, solely devoted to nature, led to the creation of the Environmental Coalition of Church and Civil Society where both sectors collaborate on projects that seek ecozones to help protect the environment.

Echoing Hagedorn's sentiments, engineer Shai Stockhamer opened his discussion with the statement "Risk planet does not need us, we need this planet."

The electrical and illuminations expert showcased various lighting systems that minimize energy consumption, from reducing dependence on fossil fuels, "save energy, it's good for the planet," he stresses.

He also touches on pipe-supervising surveying the improvements of conserving possible waste.

"Every building, owner should look into the best practices," Stockhamer proposes. In creating an energy conservation measures appears to be expensive at the start, he says. But it will be more cost-efficient in the long run, and will bring more savings compared to regular lighting fixtures.

However, environmental protection goes beyond building structures with fancy lighting and water systems. Richard Gaisnon, vice president for legislation and public affairs/development of Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Standards, says waste reduction is an equally integral aspect of ecological sustainability.

Coca-Cola, he shares, reduced by 40 percent the plastic used for its bottles. This step not only cut costs in producing containers, it also allowed the company to carry more products in a vehicle, thus reducing travel and minimizing the consumption of fuel and therefore lowering the emission of greenhouse gases.

Prosper and Gamble also redesigned its products' bottles to lower its use of plastic materials, Quinsaat says. Some of its shampoo bottles are refortified and made into liquid soap, to avoid more wastage, he adds.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects of various companies also account for a huge part of their obligation measures. Many projects mobilize citizens to clean highly polluted waters and land areas, while some promote reforestation.

"But good CSR projects are those that really matter to the employees," Gonsaisan states. Encouraging workers to adopt a green lifestyle not only in the offices, but more so in their own homes is a huge stride in addressing the effects of global warming, he adds.

Antonio Abesia, president of Green Care Advocates Inc. and a member of Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), also recognized the huge leap in environmental protection achieved by CSRs.

Sustainability may account for 40 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the planet, but cars can become environmentfriendly as well. Toyota Motors Corp. promises for customer service operations Bobbie Hamaguchi presents the company's latest hybrid technology which makes no emissions while giving outstanding performance on the road.

The third generation Prius, which uses Toyota's latest green technology will be available to the country before the year ends.

All these measures appear as a huge task for a small third-world country like the Philippines. But Filipinos should still act responsibly and respond to the problems because, as Pobre notes, the Philippines feels the effects of global warming more even if the country produces an insignificant amount of greenhouse gases compared with the US and China.

And nothing is impossible, renowned paralympian Gregorio Rosas notes. He suffered from polio on both legs since age 1, but he did not stop trying to achieve his goals. He not only graduated in the Architecture, but also took part and finished in extremely challenging triathlon tradition.

Adventure author Rhoo Benz Chow from Singapore also expresses a heightened optimism. He conquered Mt. Everest twice, and has reached all seven of the highest peaks in the world.

Perseverance and determination are the key in achieving what appears to be impossible, both Gregorio and Chow stress.

CNN Hero of the Year Efren Peñaflorida of the Philippines, meanwhile, notes the importance of education in trying to enact change. He relates the people's inaction to lack of education.

"The goal is to educate people to take action," he states, adding it is never too late and one is never too poor to start learning.

But the country is sufficiently equipped, with all the landmark laws and environmental protection being enacted. Commissioner Lucille Sering of the Climate Change Commission and lawyer Gloria Ramos of the Environmental Law and Global Action Network say the Philippines has some of the best laws on the environment, which should be adequate in curbing environmental degradation to the planet.

But both women note that ill enforcement of these laws weaken them/liable.

The Philippines needs to be protected more than ever, notes Jose Carpenter.

The Old Dominion University Biological Sciences professor cites several studies that show the Philippines as the birthplace of most species of corals and fishes. There are also findings suggesting that several species are currently evolving, and developing in the country's waters.

The two-day fair gathered some of the most knowledgeable personalities on the environment. But it also many beautiful flowers and invited participants to an underwater and beach cleanup and demonstrations of green cuisine, recycling materials for jewelry and other items, permaculture and vermicomposting.

EVERY body should be educated on how to help curb global warming.

VERMICOMPOSTING process

TRYING to find truth in the grounds of the Mactan Shangri-la.

When your customers become your best marketers

SETH GODIN, the best selling author of Purple Cow and most followed marketing blogger, is to write a book titled "All Marketers Are Liars." The book raised eyebrows but made a point. Customers don't listen or believe in what they see or hear being advertised anymore. In the US, the stats have hovered around the 90 percent mark. That's 9/10 people don't believe in the promises pitched by advertisers. Advertising only helps in terms of awareness but the sell, it seems, has to be verified by a friend, relative, colleague, officemate, etc.

There that place really have the best refined place to the ad spiel? Yes, the power of word-of-mouth.

Dare the friend positively soothes the claim, then there is a second nod value: "OK, let's try that restaurant next time..."

After a few years, Godin's book was republished and retitled, "All Marketers Are Still Liars." The contrast was basically the same, but Godin just wanted to focus more on the main premise: that marketers would do much better and sell more of their stuff if they concentrated on creating stories about their brands and services.

How? Read future P-O-M-M: Dr Word of Mouth Marketing.

Today, we could replace "MouthS" with "Mouse" because of the Internet, bloggers and social media. But with all these touch screen devices and this just said (last-just), screams might be a thing of the past as well, so let's stick to word of mouth.)

Your customers are your best story tellers

In the '90s, Direct Selling started to boom. From during the 1997 Asian Crisis direct selling companies like Avon, Nu Skin, Amway, Herbalife, etc.) did extremely well and were growing despite the economic crisis.

People were buying from friends and family their beauty and direct selling were centered and told that they were not selling but just "sharing a story" about a product. And on the first requirement of a direct selling business was the product and have a story to share about their experience in using the product. This was called a "product story" or "testimonial."

Direct selling companies continue to boom today because of Filipinos penchant for story telling (or sharing "shares" or

Direct selling companies continue to boom today

the latest news even if it is about a product or service.)

Proof, the vitamin C brand sold via direct selling, quickly rendered a billion pesos in annual sales without even being in a single brewery. Long story. Basically about the non-acidic vitamin C (you could mega dose on this vitamin C and not have an upset stomach) were quickly shared via word of mouth.

And now we have many startup stars—YouTube, Facebook, Twitter. The new holy trinity of social media.

Recently, the 21 Marketing Store was invited to deliver a talk on Customer Service at the annual Retail Merchants Forum sponsored and hosted by Ayala Malls. I invited Customer Experience trainer and consultant, JV Wong, with me to speak. If I were asked to speak on Customer Service a few years ago, I would decline. But today, Customer Service has become "the New Marketing." If Marketers are supposed to tell, according to Godin, "authentic stories" that can be spread virally then why not CUSTOMERS? And that's exactly what they are doing through the holy trinity of social media.

Marketing glue...or glue

This is reason for either glue or glitch for marketers. Glue if they deliver or over deliver on their promises and delight the customer. This give becomes a Facebook status update, a Tweet, or a blog post on someone's Word Press or Blogger site. Glitch if they fail to deliver on the product's promises and/or on give poor service.

Some stars of glue: positive stories of influential food and travel blogger, Anton Diaz (www.mypinoyadventure.com) have caused my family and business colleagues to try and discover new restaurants in the Ilos Southern and Eastern Metropolitan area. Other types of customers sharing stories about their positive product or customer service experiences are in my personal list. Example: Customer raves and blogs about her experience with Sony (the Nintendo service centers [Sony-Japan] her PS3 writes in rapturous babble a la the Super Mario mascot once trained her and her son) instead of the usual two weeks that she thought it would take.

We don't have space to discuss all the case studies that I presented during my talk on slideshare.net/ardyroberts or click the presentation link on ask@thegreatcoach.com.

Case of stories of glues were also part of my presentation, including The United Airlines breaks guitars story, Musician Dave Carrol flew on United Airlines and he ended up with a broken guitar. (From the airline: Sorry if his airplane mate, Carrol sure have his guitar were being fondled—or actually thrown around.) Despite his complaints, United refused to compensate Carrol for the damaged guitar. So the musician/songwriter of the band, Sons of Maxwell, created a song and music video entitled "United Breaks Guitars" and posted it on YouTube. After a few hundred thousand views, United finally took action to minimize the damage on their brand and compensated Carrol. (United actually hired the musician to tell the continuing story of how the airline is trying to do better.) To far, the United Breaks Guitars story has for nine million YouTube views.

To give your customers a positive, glueful story to share and they will share it wherever it is around the dining table or on their Facebook status. Ask yourself and your management team this question next time you meet: "When my customers walk out of my store or use my product or service, this is the story that they will share:

Correction. In our stand corrected in last week's column on Hang Seng's IOR Store, we wrote that Edgar Pang the IT-gor help from the Philippine Pawnshop Association (PPA) but it was actually the chairwoman of Filipino Pawnbrokers Inc. (APFI) and Rose Bartolome who helped and mentored Hang. Thanks to Mon Lopez of Cebuganon for pointing that out to us. We welcome your comments/questions. Send them to us at Marketing@philSME.net or DrWord-marketing@gmail.com. God bless!

Rey Calooy of RNC Marketing: Cebu's 'iron' entrepreneur

THOSE WHO know Rey Calooy, the founder and president of RNC Marketing, will readily agree when they hear others refer to him as "The Iron Man of Cebu." Such a moniker may rightfully be attributed to the man who had newly bodied dense from any adversity despite suffering a number of serious injuries on in his life.

Aided only by a positive disposition in life, Calooy proved to all once that he was made of tougher stuff. He did not blame the circumstances, the environment and to a certain extent, the unjust socio-political structures that has created a big gap between him and his neighbors. Instead, he transformed his failures into positive energy to get out of the shackles of poverty.

And despite the not so pleasant conditions that has dominated his early life, he opted to fight for his self-esteem and dignity, to speak. To him, Rey's unique fighting spirit has become one of his weapons to overcome himself out of his miserable condition.

He knows that all the solutions to his (then) need to make ends meet would not, in any way, be likened to that of Aladdin's, who had first on his side when he rhymed up on a genie in a bottle. It was a totally different story for him, as he still had to work 16 hours a day.

Taking a cue from Charles Darwin

Calooy has also broadened his perspective by giving a closer study on the dynamics of poverty and perhaps, by taking a cue from Charles Darwin that only the toughest would be able to survive in the struggles in life.

For any entrepreneur to succeed in the business, Calooy says that he must possess a number of the so-called "intangibles" like perseverance, diligence, intelligence, and the ability to adapt to being ready for the battles in any given time. Most importantly, he believes that attitude and financial discipline are some of the most important aspects of the equation. "It takes to 99 percent failures before we attain one percent success," he says.

Calooy still didn't have enough financial muscle when he started the business. He opened the business using only a meager amount which he saved in supplies for his business. "What I had back then were only office, time and a little courage to do what I wanted to exploit," he smiles. He now assumes a trading firm and a company that manufactures instant hot chocolate drink, ginger tea and noodles while also managing a repacking business.

The exit from poverty

During his student days at University of Cebu, Calooy admitted edge that the valuable support of its president, Augusto Go, motivates him to go on despite the odds. He recalls those times when he had to run to in his office to personally ask for extension whenever he could not pay his tuition on time. Even as a student, Calooy had a spartan life as he only had an average of three hours of deep each night. After graduation, he worked as a news reporter for over a year with a radio station called dZRa. But later played a cruel joke on Calooy as he got laid off from work just a year after being hired.

It was shortly after he had lost his job at the radio station—the company had to lay off numbers at the time—that he decided to mail 30 application letters. This is when his started in liner him, getting hired by a Manila-based pharmaceutical firm that was then looking for clients in the Visayas. He became its sales manager at the young age of 24.

Still, Calooy did not stop. He knew that's the type who easily get satisfied with all that he had achieved—at that particular moment that he wanted to be an entrepreneur. And despite a lucrative income offer by the company, he still made the bold move of resigning.

Taking the PESOS cash hoard that the company had returned to him, Calooy started his road to entrepreneurship. It was 1992 by selling door to door. All his stock for P75 a pop and sold by rags for P35 a piece. As a result, his income from selling rags had exceeded the money he earned when he was still with the pharmaceutical firm.

Calooy knows that the network he had built with the pharmaceutical company has given him a big impetus. So one day he decided to sell them again and convinced them to try his line. He told them that he would be promoting them with all the things they needed.

That was the start of Calooy's journey towards bigger things in his entrepreneurial life. He looks back at the valuable support he got from Pharmaforte, especially at that time when he was still just a fledgling entrepreneur.

"During those times when I needed to buy new equipment, only Pharmaforte had given me a higher credit line, and it was more than enough to augment my resources and to improve my company's productivity," he says.

And like his partner back, this Iron Boy Cebuano actually knows how to get to his name. His plans on top partners or partners in a joint venture business with the economic stabilization of the islands to boost the economic livelihood of marginalized sectors in Cebu.

Knowing root crops

By applying his knowledge (and perhaps some imagination) on the nutritional value of root crops, Calooy was able to transform the lowly squash into a commercial product. The squash was just the start. Believing that other root crops also have potential to be turned into more healthful products, Calooy then began to develop them as well.

"So more and more people become health conscious as their eating habits," he says, "I felt that there was a bright future in the development of root crops." Camote is one crop that has vast potential because it can be used as substitute to rice. Crops, like ube or cassava, may also be tapped to produce what I called for our food requirements," he adds.

In his analogy Calooy urges entrepreneurs to become like those who are able to give people options to a business once it gets malfunctioning. "If one option malfunctions, the other options are there to fall back on."

Just like the famous American piano bound, Calooy believes quality should not fade away even for a single moment. Such the mindset of entrepreneurs because only by consistently adhering to quality and to your own beliefs, no matter your stature in life, will one be able to endure the challenges of operating a business. Calooy should know, since that's just what he did to his when he is today.

CALOOY and his wife Nenita

"THE IRON Man of Cebu"

Will dole-outs ...

From page B1-F

son. It would be no surprise for anyone to quit such a job to make his family live on that small amount.

Why not use the money instead for employing the destitute by building small-scale infrastructures? Emergency employment programs were useful in blunting the impact of the Global Crisis on the Philippines. The human pain were given jobs for a few months to upgrade and maintain roads and other projects. Moreover, guiding a family out of poverty for the long term requires protecting the education and health of the children.

As affirmed by the World Bank, CCTs are becoming more and more popular around the globe. They have worked well in Brazil, halving poverty from 32.6 percent of the people in 1993-95 to only 15.21 in 2009. CCTs have cut the incidence of extreme poverty in Nicaragua by 5.3 percentage points, in Colombia by 2.9 points, in Mexico by 3.3. CCTs have pulled up school enrollment among girls in Pakistan. They have greatly lowered child-labor rates in Cambodia. CCTs are part of the world's best practices in fighting poverty. In short, cutting-edge programs must be supported.

BUSINESS Friday

Getting back movie goers from 'pirates'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

GIVEN THE Filipinos' easy access to cheap (read: pirated) DVDs and free movies downloaded from the Internet, one would think that cinema houses would have more empty seats than paying patrons.

But that has not been the case over the past two years, according to the SM group, which operates the most cinema houses in the country with 800 movie screens nationwide. In fact, the reverse has been true, says Edgar Tejereo, senior vice president of the SM Cinema group, adding that movie attendance has been up by 23 percent so far this year.

Tejereo attributes the hike in attendance to the investments that the SM group has made in the cinemas to improve on the customers' needs that going to the movie, with the best in acoustics and a giant screen to better appreciate cutting-edge special effects, is still worth a few hundred pesos.

The key, he says, is to heighten the movie experience to give Filipinos a reason to leave the comfort of their homes for their movie fix.

"The cinemas had always been exciting, but there had been a marked shift because of piracy and cheap movies. More people stayed home. So what we did was to address that competition by making going to the movies worthwhile," Tejereo says.

He says that two years ago, SM made a strategic move to dramatically upgrade the movie houses. The seats were changed to make them more comfortable and luxurious; the movie screens improved for clearer, larger than life digital images and the acoustics modified to better hear those car crashes without hurting the eardrums. Even the drink and snack bar was expanded to cater to different tastes.

Those improvements have meant millions in investments, and by 2009, Tejereo says that the cinema group started feeling the returns.

For instance, from its 11 percent decline in movie attendance from 2007 to 2008, the group ended last year with a growth of 6 percent. He says this was already significant considering the significant decline the previous year.

"The turning point came in 2009, and so far this year, we are seeing continued significant growth," he says, adding that the growth cements the Philippines' reputation as the biggest movie market in Southeast Asia with the SM group accounting for more than half of cinema ticket sales.

The SM cinema group has also turned to social networking to help draw the rich in multitudes— men and women aged 18-24. It has over 20,000 Facebook followers and plans are in place to eventually allow people to buy their tickets or reserve their seats online.

The group is also exploring the possibility of issuing movie gift cards and putting up a user number system so that enthusiasts will only need to call one number to ask about movie titles and schedules.

"That is the last piece of the puzzle to make it more convenient for people to watch a movie," says Tejereo, adding that the movie houses have—and likely always will be—another source that brings in droves of people to the growing number of SM malls.

SEATS were refurbished, acoustics improved.

MOVIE attendance has gone up 23 percent so far this year.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editors: Jenni Epperson and Ria Francisco-Prieto

Vuitton has no intention of 'taking control of Hermès'

IS BERNARD Arnault orchestrating a repeat of his famous hostile takeover of a family-owned luxury house in the 1980s?

Late Saturday, news broke that the Arnault-owned LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton) has bought into the family-controlled luxury leather goods house Hermès, with a total 17.3-percent stake, igniting talk of a takeover.

The conglomerate, which owns brands like Louis Vuitton, Fendi, Marc Jacobs, De Beers, Tag Heuer, among dozens of others, quickly quashed speculations, saying LVMH "has no intention of launching a tender offer, taking control of Hermès nor seeking board representation."

The media statement also said: "The objective of LVMH is to be a long-term shareholder of Hermès and to contribute to the preservation of the family and French architect values are at the heart of the global success of this iconic brand."

According to Women's Wear Daily (WWD), however, analysts insist it's not likely Arnault, the LVMH chair and CEO, a known long-time admirer of Hermès, will be content with a minor stake. The industry hasn't forgotten how Arnault, in the '80s, had played members of the Vuitton family against each other before making his bid to take over the luxury marketer. His long, drawn-out acrimonious fight for control of another family-owned house Gucci was,

VUITTON C4

All campy and flashy –and it's LV

Latest collection is 'deliberately overdone brightness and flash,' as Suzy Menkes put it

By Ria de Borja
Contributor

PARIS—It was a salute of a Vuitton week in Paris. Louis Vuitton took advantage of the presence of international press and held two events on top of its season fashion show—all fuelled by those who attended.

The opening of Louis Vuitton & Paris'Step: An Exhibit at the Musée Carnavalet showcased iconic trunks and luggage from the 19th century to today. The desk trunk, the library trunk, the car trunk, the food trunk and the folding bed were preserved in their original glory, housed in thick glass.

The interesting items, like the more functional ones, were the practical or multi-modular pieces: a trunk that resembled a workman's kit, called the Monogram Canvas Box (1930), similar to what your plumber or car technician might bring to your home, but branded in Vuitton; and the Blues resin trunk by Yuki Torii (2004).

Africa exhibit

Next evening's Vuitton event was held across the street from the Louis Vuitton **store** (head office) along the Rue Royal. A

ALL CAMPY C2

EXTRAVAGANT chestnuts for Louis Vuitton Spring-Summer 2011

All campy and flashy—and it's LV

From page C1

ICONIC motifs and luggage from the 19th century to today are featured in the Louis Vuitton & Paris Voyage Exhibition at the Mosaic Gymnasium.

white tent was constructed around the glass and cement edifice, which held the photo exhibit and launch of Rossi's collaboration with Vuitton.

Before Rossi arrived, LV head of communications Antoine Arbault and LV CEO Yves Carcelle mingled with the guests, while Naomi Campbell was surrounded by 10 people with cocktails, phones, all trying to get a snapshot of her. Such god Bono entered surrounded tightly by security.

The exhibit "Africa Rising," was launched to share with the 3D set, Ts Business Echo founders Ali Hewson and Bono.

The ground floor displayed Abreau on from the collection of Jean Pigozzi, considered the most renowned in the world. Works of Seydou Keita and George Lilanga's Urban People were on the walls and windows.

Younger artists showed photos of the streets of Brazzaville, while others showed photos of hip-hop, society and women in South Africa.

The second floor had a photo of the ad showing Bono and Hewson in clothes by Echo, while Hewson carries a LV-Echo collaboration bag.

"The bag is accessorized with a Moorgrass charm hand-crafted in Kenya by Wanle, a fair trade fashion accessory company which strives to provide employment and promote ethical trade in Africa," says the Africa-loving diva-ist.

Echo, launched in 2005, is an ethical clothing company that aims to promote the possibilities of using business with Africa to alleviate poverty on the continent. OMB1 bought a snake in Echo last year.

Particular style

The show began on time. The runway was black, bejeweled, with a somewhat Rudy Jeel in the tiger-printed backdrop. A quote in the show's dossier from Susan Sontag's "Notes on Camp," published in 1964, aimed to sum up the show: "Camp' seen to, by its nature, only possible in affluent societies."

Having been part, in college, of a small meet-and-greet-and-discuss with Susan Sontag, I was excited to see how Marc Jacobs would interpret this statement.

"Camp' is a vision of the world in terms of style—but a particular kind of style. It is the love of the exaggerated, the 'off,' of things being what they are not," said Sontag. Thus, according to Suzy Menkes' article in International Herald Tribune about the show: "Mr. Jacobs explained that 'Camp,' to this man, means deliberately overdone brightness and flash."

Chinoiserie

Camp abounded in show...the take on chinoiserie, for instance. It had the "spirit of extravagance" often associated with camp. Textured and beaded chrysanthemum styles and glittering pants; shiny coasts, sparkling gold, green and purple to full shimmers, looking like a deconstructed disco ball, or

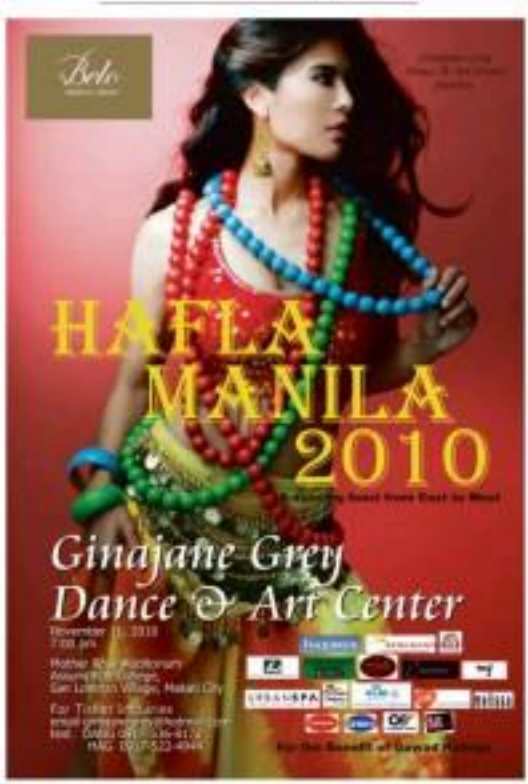
EVENING purses from the Spring Summer 2011 collection

PATCHING fur and skirt

ALL DAMN CO

EXHIBIT displays

VINTAGE photos and design drawings in the Louis Vuitton exhibit



Share blessings, spread joy

THE CHAIN MARTS'

Thanksgiving Sale

SALE PERIOD: October 29 - November 14, 2010

Makati Supermart

Cash & Carry supermarket

Uni Mart

All campy and flashy—and it's LV

From page C3

RTN Ora and Lea Dutton

RTN Ora and Daisy Lanza

what is left where the mirrors and lights are strain-rolled into fabrics.

There was no emphasis on line or form: Animal prints rested on the loose and unstructured dresses, the more structured blouses, and the slightly oversized jackets. It was only the bags, reminiscent of the Papworth, that clearly stated a new shape.

And the shape of things to come, the show seemed to say, would please both buyers from the East, whose cultural heritage was on full, unincorporated display, and the Middle Easterners and Russians who might see this not as camp at Westchester would define it, but, simply, as Orientalyche.

The shortage of things to come, the show seemed to say, would please both buyers from the East, whose cultural heritage was on full, unincorporated display, and the Middle Easterners and Russians who might see this not as camp at Westchester would define it, but, simply, as Orientalyche.

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Model Jessa Cross

JESSICA Chastain, Julia Roman Bohrfeld and Carolina Guber

MARIE-Josée Croze, Catherine Deneuve, Ludivine Sagnier, Antoine Arnault and Jessica Chastain

LOUIS Vuitton CEO Yves Carcelle, Lorraine Martone, Marc Jacobs and Pietro Beccari

Vuitton has no . . .

From page C1

bourses cheaured.

LVMH, notes Vanessa Friedman, fashion editor of Financial Times, is credited for globalizing and previously family-owned houses Fendi and Pucci.

"Why on earth would LVMH want to take a non-controlling [corporate interest]? Surely they are looking to outventure a further pocket of shareholders," a luxury report told WWD.

Founded in 1923, the house of Hermès, which was public in 2002, remains owned by three branches of the Hermès family all descendants of family founder. The family has 40 to 60 members, according to WWD sources.

A statement released by Hermès reads: "Today, Hermès family shareholders have a strong majority control of nearly ⅔ of the shares. They are fully united around a common business vision. Their long-term control of Hermès International is guaranteed by its financial returns, its limited partnership by shares and the family shareholders have confirmed that they are not considering any significant selling of shares."

Hermès is viewed as a safe haven by investors in the sector, and the stock price also has been bloated by pressures takeover speculation," wrote WWD. "The death last May of former chief executive officer and chairman Jean-Louis Dumas-Hermès at a milestone likely to increase the likelihood of a transaction."

WWD added: "LVMH is unlikely to increase its Hermès investment in the near term, but historically, the French group rarely takes a minority stake and stays at that level. In the London analyst's estimation, Hermès would fit logically at the pinnacle of LVMH's fashion and leather goods portfolio, and not 'cannibalize' any of its other brands."

Hermès is maker of the iconic Birkin and Kelly handbags coveted by women—and a few men—from Beijing to Moscow, and yes, Manila.

Charlie U. Mercado

Doing something for the environment shouldn't have to compromise your family's health.

3 things you should know about Sanicare Ecolayer

Sandwiched ecolayer

Only 100% virgin pulp is used for the top and bottom layers, where your skin is touched. But sandwiched in between is our ecolayer made from recycled goods.

Laminated sheets

The Sanicare Ecolayer features various embossing. It is the first tissue with embossing is used for bathroom tissue.

Vatted embossing

Its sheets undergo embossing which ensures that the moisture will not come into contact with your skin. Further, it makes the tissue paper durable even when wet.

LIFESTYLE *Fashion&Beauty*

Nail polish inspired by the Philippines—why not?

OPI's Joey Brown and Scott Smith dish on nail care inspired by geography, and—color for men

By Pam Pastor

IT'S AN ODD SCENE.

Last month, on her show Oprah Winfrey, one of the world's richest, sat comfortably as Venus titleh Serena Williams weighed her feet.

It looked odd—until you realized that Serena has been passionate about nail care since she was a little girl.

"I was so obsessed with nails I started doing mine every day," she told Oprah.

Most actually, it was to nail colors! In the celebrated nail technician, She took the process one step further by collaborating with nail-care brand OPI to create a nail-polish collection called Grand Slam, to be released next year.

Serena's OPI collection was just one of the many things OPI international spokesperson Joey Brown and OPI's international sales manager for Asia Pacific Scott Smith talked about on an interview arranged by Bastida, OPI's exclusive distributor, at Mall Tropics in Greenbelt 5.

"We're very happy to be here in Manila. Sales in the Philippine market are growing and we are happy with our partnership with Bastida," said Smith.

The current tour-not Mall Tropics runs a lot of OPI products, and Mall Tropics CEO Gigi Ermita a huge fan of the brand.

"Other than being in the business for almost 30 years, OPI has always been the brand that has a wide range of polish colors," she said.

Asked to choose her favorite OPI color, Ermita had a hard time choosing just one.

"From the Swiss Collection, It's Not Tied Up Deep. It's a rich and creamy blue that has a hint of green and black. And William Tell Me About OPI, it all depends on the mood. Some of my all time favorites are OPI Red, You Don't Know Jacques, a chocolate brown taupe, and Lincoln Park After Dark, a deep eggplant purple."

Brown and Smith talked about their Grand Slam and Swiss Collections, and care tips and even who wears polish.

Tell us about the Swiss Collection.

Scott Smith: We do two major collections a year—Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. We do collections based on what's happening over the world in fashion, what's going down the runway in Paris, New York, London, Milan.

OPI is also known for collection based on geographic locations. It could be a US state, or a country. When you think of Switzerland, you think of snowy landscape with lots of metallic shimmers, so this year we did Our Swiss Collection for Fall 2013.

When Suzi Weiss-Fischmann, OPI's Executive VP and artistic director) was working on trend forecasts, one of the things prevalent this season were neutrals. When that seasonal color flows that trend but in a new way, the colors are not neutral, are not nude only. It's neutral but in a new way.

About the Bastique Collection.

Smith: Bastique is our collaboration with Joey Maden Pitmore. The movie will be released in the US in Nov. 24 and it stars Demetria Aguilera, Dan and Gary Eigander.

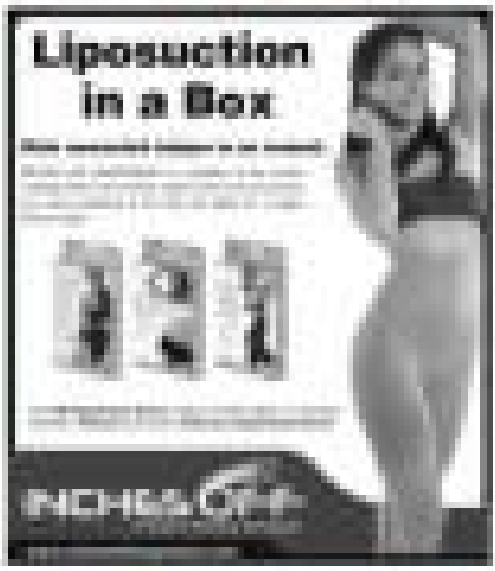
Christina Aguilera plays a girl from middle America who is bored with life and who dreams of becoming a dancer. She moves to Los Angeles and works in a dance-and-out club. Dan owns. It's a "Grease"-type

SAN PAGE 35

SERENA Williams' passion is coloring her nails.

Cool jackets

Nail polish inspired by the Philippines—why not?


Liposuction
in a Box

Cream.

InterCon features Cookbook recipes

Until NOVEMBER, InterContinental's Cafe Jasmine and the Assumption High School Class of '70's cookbook will feature choice dishes from the Cookbook in the hotel's lunch buffet spread.

The two-week special buffet opens on Nov. 6, 12 n.n. at the Cafe Jasmine. Meet the ladies behind the cookbook—Marivic Reyes-Lotocasa and Aimee Baerpang, and hear their very own stories on each recipe.

Assumption will also hold a Christmas bazaar at the Ground floor of the hotel Oct 29 to Nov 1 from 11 n.n-7 p.m. email her at marina_pelletier@intl.com for details.

Writing workshop

Power Book House opens a writing workshop for college students and professionals on Nov. 13. The workshop will run for seven Saturdays at Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

Facilitated by one of the country's established writers and book authors, the workshop covers a review of grammar and word usage qualities of good, effective writing, improving one's style, essay writing, feature writing, business- or report-writing, journalism and scriptwriting.

Participants may choose between the morning or afternoon sessions. Slots are limited. For details, call 816-4884 or 815-8829 or email shekkie@milyahinc.com.

Halloween packages

Discovery Country Suites offers a relaxing treat for local residents during the Halloween weekend with package rates beginning at P 7,000 – per night inclusive of a wine and cheese buffet and breakfast for two persons.

Those planning a weekend retreat can book the Suite of Suite, the best-and-breakfast's most spacious accommodation with its semi-terrace view of the famous Taal lake and volcano.

Reddeer will also host a Halloween party for walk-in diners including Halloween revelers from Oct. 29 Nov. 2. The restaurant will distribute Halloween-inspired food bags for the kids and the kids-at-heart. There will also be a Halloween movie marathon at the bed-and-breakfast's family area with fresh popcorn and other munchies to enjoy.

For inquiries and reservations, call Discovery Country Suites at 478-8172 or (0918) 413-4067 or email dcsuites@discovery.com.ph.

Special halloween treat

Bellefield presents "Scaremoval," a combo of the family and the spooky on Oct. 31, 3-8 p.m. at the Mezzanine of SM Mall of Asia. For tickets to the event, visit participating Toy Kingdom and Toy Kingdom Express stores until Oct. 30 and get one free ticket for a minimum purchase of P1,000 worth of toys. Tickets are also available at the Bellefield Office.

SPECIAL HALLOWEEN TREAT

Sofitel celebrates Halloween from Oct. 28-Nov. 1. A night's stay starts from P6,195++ which includes Spiral buffet breakfast for two, two tickets to a hair-raising 'Trick or Treat...scary storytelling, ghoulish face painting and a freaky Halloween parade. The Spooktacular Trick or Treat will be held on Oct. 31, 1-4 p.m. at Sofitel's Sonset Pavilion. Get complimentary tickets to the Spooktacular Trick or Treat at Sofitel when you dine at Spiral on Oct. 31. Walk-in guest rates are at P700. For kids, spooky cocktail concoctions are available at Spiral. For room reservations, call 951-3333 local 1951 to 1954, or 822-4951, or email at rsvn.reservations@sofitelmanila.com.

Get a taste of Halloween fervor. Each ticket is good for two persons.

There will be a scary slew of Nickelodeon-driven games, amazing eggplant drinks and juices. Come as your best Halloween costumes because Nickelodeon with the most creative and "n'Trick" costumes will take home fabulous prizes. For more information, log on to www.nick-asia.com/sea/en/sdi.

Butoyko seminar

Senior Butoyko breathing practitioner Jo Bolger will conduct lectures and seminars on the Butoyko breathing method.

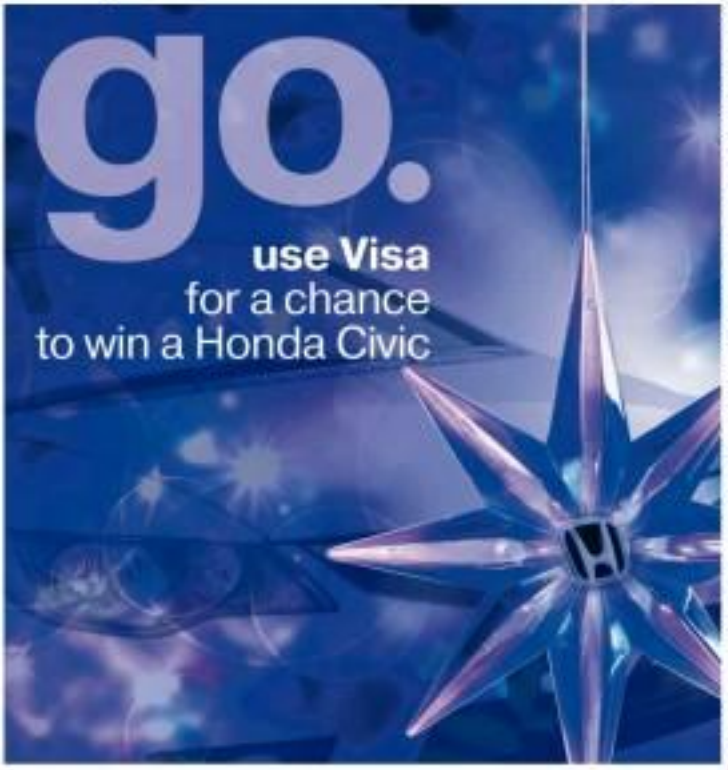
The introductory lectures are scheduled from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. on Nov. 4 at In Touch Community Services, Forbes Park; 7-9 p.m. on Nov. 5 at Living Life Well, SM Megamall; 4-6 p.m. on Nov. 6 at PhilDHRRA Partnership Center, Loyola Heights; and from 5-7 p.m. on Nov. 7 at Living Life Well, SM Megamall. For more information, visit www.butoyko-sa.com or email paul@gmail.com or call 09184064060 or 891-8894.

Cultural performance

Paco Park goes Broadway with baritone Jon Ferrer in Zarzuella in a cultural concert presented by the Department of Tourism, the National Parks Development Committee, and the National Broadcasting Network. Call 302-1370 for details.

Band concert

The San Juan Philharmonic Band under the music direction of noted conductor Ramon Ramos, is the feature band in Concert at the Park on Oct. 31 at 5 p.m. Featured soloists are trombone player Diamond Manuel, trumpet player Cornelius Lorenzo Bautista, Fonsie Rogelio Jimenez, Pastor Bautista Jr. and Danielle Pagay and percussion player John Christian Ferrer. Admission is free. Call 353-1374 for details.



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HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Toy Kingdom will host a Halloween Masquerade on Oct. 31 at SM Makati. Check out Toy Kingdom's exciting Halloween hotspot on the same day: The House of Halloween, a escapade Cartoon Network at The Podium, and the Scarvivor Pit by with Nickelodeon at the SM Mall of Asia. A minimum purchase of participating Toy Kingdom and Toy Kingdom Express branches and the one to join in the fun. P500 for The House of Halloween, P1,000 for Scarvivor, both inclusive of toy Halloween loot. Visit www.toykingdom.ph for details.

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Legendary beauty brand now targets the eyes

The price of La Mer's The Eye Balm Intense may raise eyebrows–the benefits do not

STORY ON PAGE E5

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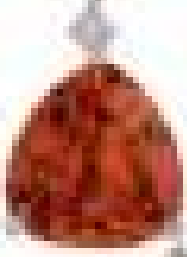

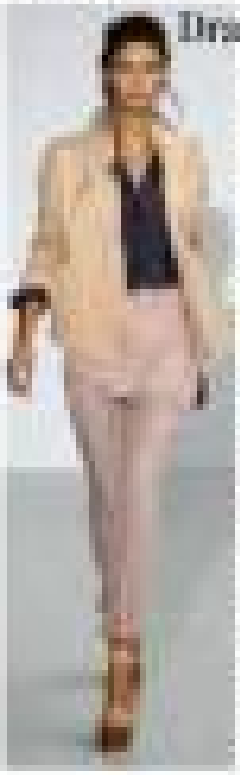

Draped silhouettes, edgy touches inspired by menswear

EXPERIENCE
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I
TREATS

intel
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Legendary beauty brand now targets the eyes

By Gisele V. Munji

IT'S THOROUGHLY print ing con under a tenuous current. But for tho cafe believers, there's no battling an outside influence over $1,000 for a mere gel-cream of cream that works. Ergo, it seems sound to every cause doubt if the super women would hesitate to pay P9,500 to P14,950 for an eye cream.

La Mer, the beauty company that created Crème de la Mer, whose premiere source and patented wonder use as legendary in its own, unveils the latest in its growing collection of cult beauty elixirs, The Eye Balm Intense.

Like many cult creams before it, The Eye Balm Intense promises to "de-puff" the eye area by draining it of excess accumulated fluids, and to minimize lines and wrinkles. What's unique about it, however, is the ingredients, including La Mer's groundbreaking Miracle Broth, the secret formulation of the cult brand.

According to La Mer lore, 40 years ago an aerospace scientist named Dr. Max Huber began concocting a recipe to heal the scars he had sustained from a lab accident. The main ingredient was sea kelp, which Huber put through a fermentation process.

A dozen years and thousands of experiments later, Miracle Broth was born. It claims to soothe and repair skin's damaged tissues, and has become the basis for Crème de la Mer, one of the most luxurious beauty products in the market. (La Mer is exclusively sold at Rustan's.)

Three forms

In The Eye Balm Intense, the company uses three forms of Miracle Broth: the original, which is first created for a period of 1-4 months; the concentrated Miracle Broth, derived from a three-day cold vacuum process to "intensely soften, condition and hydrate" skin; and the encapsulated Miracle Broth, a time-release powder form for continuous hydration.

The eye cream also contains the Marine De-Puff Ferment, containing deep-sea red algae and core ingredients to re-energize stressed skin, and The Lifting Ferment, which is Hubert-aging agent.

The Eye Balm Intense is a pale colorless, scent-free light cream that's absorbed quickly, leaving no oily-ey residue. It also leaves a cool sensation on the skin. It comes with a tiny wand, a silver-tipped cooling applicator that's designed to stimulate micro-circulation.

This cools, The Eye Balm Intense has claimed to gain fame in celebrity make-up artists. In a statement released by La Mer, Kitty Kemper Mohseni, chief artist head makeup artist for "Glee" and "Life," it is my favorite product in my new products to myself before using them with actors. La Mer's The Eye Balm Intense goes on smoothly and I can actually in just a few days—fine lines in the eye area looked firmer and less crepe-y. As a makeup artist, I like how it blends in texture is makes a great base for makeup application and helps prevent 'pilly-ing' during the day."

Rich texture

Tony Barnett, who works with the likes of Jennifer Lopez, Mariah Carey and Hilary Swank, echoes Mohseni's comments.

"I was excited to try an advanced preview of La Mer's The Eye Balm Intense because I have been using the line for years on myself and with many of my top clients," he says.

"The immediate quality that really stood out to me is that the balm has a rich texture that seems to almost melt into the skin, immediately creating a velvety soft, matte finish. Often, rich creams around the eye don't hold makeup well, and can actually break down color cosmetics that are applied over them, resulting in unpleasant smudges and irregularities. Just a small amount of The Eye Balm Intense smoothes and preps the eye area perfectly for makeup, while delivering La Mer's treatment benefits. At the end of the day, the eye area looks hydrated, smooth and energized—makeup perfectly intact."

Well, it is good enough for Hollywood's in for...

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

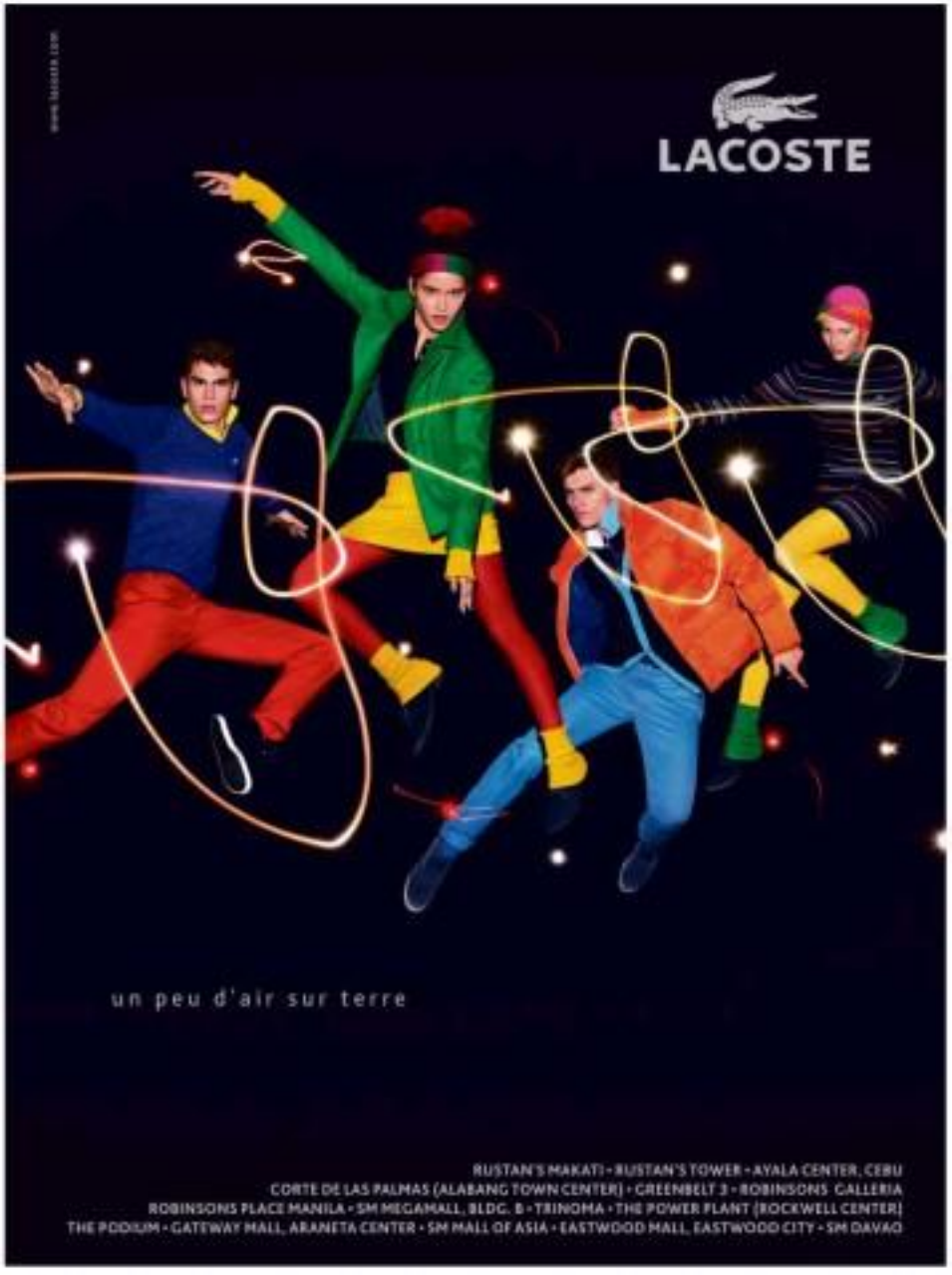
'Robots with hearts' wins young designer a Central Saint Martins scholarship

Pablo Cabahug, 30, says his military family is now happy with his career choice

By Alee Y. Vergara

YOUNG DESIGNER Pablo Cabahug bested three other newbies to win most promising designer award at the Look of Style Awards

WINNER PABLO Cabahug with Melanie Cuevas, Amanda Burrell, Chiqui Tan, INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and Tessa Prieto-Valdes



SHOCKING PINK. Chiffon dress on Kara Gozali

RADIOACTIVE COLORS on Rollins Lim

FURRYCAT FURRIE. Ruby Gavin in cowl dress

HEROSHI PRINT on Andrea Rebecca

GOLDEN CHAMPAGNE on Kei Ervi

SKINNY SCARF on Joyce Sabino

Look of the year

NORAST ISLAMIC on Rachelle Mangila

CRÈME ANGLAISE chiffon shift on Jane Sadhwani

SCALLOPED PEACOCK PRINT on Kristine de Guzman

Look magazine turns 2 and the holiday look is big and bold, graphic and printed

By Larry Lontoc
Contributor

"GOOD food, better designer collections and the best party this year," gushed Louie Uriz at the featuring-sponsored second anniversary shebang of Look Magazine, the leading fashion, beauty and lifestyle glossy.

For the 500 true Mac Imbesorian, society gals and corporate wizards, it was a spectacular show in many ways.

There was an exhibit of top fashion photographers in one area, then the Incredible Look of Style awards for 12 top fashion icons led by Colleen Tiamson.

But the main event was the style showdown of four "trendsetters" who competed for Look Magazine's Most Promising Designer Award, which was eventually won by Pablo Cabahug, the nonchalant choice of the judges.

Cabahug's prize was a British Council study fellowship at the prestigious St. Martins Academy for Fashion.

But let's take a look at the ladies who graced the successful affair. On the heels of the big and bold graphic or digital prints that were just shown at last month's London Fashion Week, Manila's fashion fermicinkles wore many versions of the big print cocktail dress that signed a big trend for this holiday season.

Also noted were seemingly anti-separates or shift dresses that upon closer inspection, had multiple cut-outs revelaing the gym-toned, youthful bodies of their wearers to full advantage.

On this page are the images of what the women wore and how they wore the cut and the prints. Pick out your favorite and use as trend page when you buy that holiday evening uniform.

CUTOUT asymmetric linen dress on Nikki Lotz

OP ART PRINT with tonic cutout on Jessica Tan

MINI TERNO in white tulle on Pam Gonzales

RED AND BRONZE. A new color combination on Anne Gonzales

ETHNIC EMBELLISHMENT. Discreet beaded trim on Monique Regidor

CABAHUG mixes classic formal silhouette with contrasting textures and treatments, including artwork nubs and metallic cloth.

CABAHUG likes jazz up with gray duchess satin.

PABLO Cabahug, who wins a new study scholarship at Central Saint Martins in part of his prize, poses with his winning collection inspired by "robots with hearts."

EXOSKELETAL treatment on body-conscious dress by Bruno, he also designed matching shoes (right) made mainly of the same materials found in his clothes.

'Robots with hearts' wins young designer a Central Saint Martins scholarship

From page 1

last Thursday night, held at The Fort's Entrenchment in Taguig City.

The event, presented by Samsung, Inquirer Lifestyle, Look Magazine and The British Council of the Philippines, was held to mark Look Magazine's second anniversary.

As part of his prize, Cabahug will attend early next year a two-week fashion design course at Central Saint Martins in London, one of the world's foremost design schools that produced fashion icons Stella McCartney, Alexander McQueen, John Galliano and the Philippines' Lesley Moke. The scholarship is sponsored by the British Council.

With "boyakitwaugh" as contest theme, Cabahug chose inspiration from "robots with hearts" to come up with a four-piece collection of long-sized short dresses (each one and lined with gray duchess satin, to achieve that shimmery metallic look.

"I wanted to echo the premise that robots could be a solution to help humans overcome certain problems," he said. "I tried to infuse each dress with a futuristic robotic basis."

Cabahug, 24, a Communication Arts graduate from Lorma College, started as an apprentice to veteran fashion designer Randy Ortiz 10 years ago. He later became one of his assistant designers.

"My parents, especially my mother, weren't exactly too keen on my decision to embark on a fashion career," said Cabahug, who initially also considered becoming a researcher for one of the major networks. "I guess a lot of it had to do with family tradition, as one of my grandfathers was in the military. But they saw how determined I was and are now happy with my choice. They were at the contest."

In 2008, Cabahug decided to strike out on his own. While attending to a growing clientele, he works as assistant to set fashion director Jhelen Aquino, who directed Ukay-ukay's fashion show.

"As he gets his special projects. But after this development, I think the time has come for me to choose, because I can't continue serving two masters. I've decided to focus on my energies on designing," said Cabahug, who did a bit of layering, pleating, pin tucking and panelling to achieve his vision.

He also gets a fashion mentorship program under Leslie Tan Gan's Designers Fashion Workshop.

Inspiration

The event was sponsored by Samsung, whose 3D high-definition, touch-screen TV ... considered a technological

ROBOTS WITH HEARTS | P.11

SYMMETRIC dress made of ornate curtain, leather and nylon by Karmie Tiozon (front)

SHAPELESS short dress with boxing details by Ng

NET-adorned piece in sunny yellow

LIKE a tutorial coat, sort of

RALPH Ng

FRINGED dress made of crochet pieces by Sunnyboy

HIGH-QUALITY DESIGN OF SAMSUNG 3D LED TV is the perfect background as the runway at Tim Bodddenkamp's fashion show is set for the screening of "September Issue."

MIDA Sanciangco (above) pairs plus-blouson with cornelian pants. Digital print, far right, she says, makes use of "safe" materials both for wear and environment.

Holiday shoes are cuffed, crystallized

SWAROVSKI CRYSTALS will adorn every adventurous woman's feet this holiday season as Stella Luna unveils the Swarovski 53 seasons Collection.

The collection features the softest Italian leather, the most luxurious suede and precious Swarovski crystals from Austria.

The collection commands presence and conveys one message for its wearer: "I want everyone to look at me."

Ankle cuff is one of the key elements of this collection. This gives the pure added personality.

Each pair is manually handcrafted and all crystals carefully chosen. Each Swarovski crystal is rendered to the fabric by hand.

Stella Luna is available at shoes re Greenbelt 3, Shangri-La Plaza mall, elsewhere e and Power Plant Mall.

'Robots with hearts' wins young designer a Central Saint Martins scholarship

From page F1

oil breakthrough for being the world's thinnest... became an inspiration for the contest's theme.

The board of judges was composed of veteran designers Tan Gan, Cesar Longa and JC Buenaflor, British Council's Amanda Bagwell, Inquirer Lifestyle editor and Look publisher Thelma Ximena Ann Zuzuarregui, Look editor in chief Melanie Cuevas and Inquirer Lifestyle reporter-Cheche Mendoza.

Look, the country's newest growing lifestyle and beauty magazine, continued a practice begun last year—the Look of Style awards given to 11 teens.

A section of The Establishment was devoted to an exhibit of photographs by leading fashion photographers such as Aera Black, Mark Nicolas, Frank Hoenlein, Paolo Pineda and Ian Gonglia Ong.

Black and company stood up to the challenge of capturing runway faces and angles of each stylish, accomplished and highly visible women in Bea Soriano, Nikki Toms, Mona Cecilio, Rose Gonzalez, Stella Tan Gan, Angelina Cecilio Puno, Ingrid Chua Go, Nicole Whitehouse, Kaye Lapid, Crickette Tanseco, Janina Dizon Thorbjus and Georgina Wilson.

Select group

Caballeng earlier shared the stage with fellow contestants Mica Santayana, the late female finalist, Ralph Ng and Rocket Tanseco. Unlike most fashion contests where almost anyone is free to join, this one was limited to a select group of young invitees based on their promising, still evolving bodies of work.

Since it wasn't an entry-level contest, organizers also emphasized the importance of advanced marketing and required contestants to pair their respective visions with attainable plan.

Verbally capacity to win, because I thought Mica's clothes had a better shot," said Caballeng. "Her collection was polished and made use of a relatively new technology called digital printing."

Caballeng outshines Santayana, assistant designer and business manager of seasoned designer Rajo Ramos Diaz, a friendly rival. They're both identified, he said, with "Lam Espiritu's group," referring to the leading stylist and regular Look contributor.

Santayana, a Management graduate from Ateneo, paired a number of abstract tops made of natural-colored pifia with grey mousseline pants and pencil dresses made of stretch canvas. She also did a fringe-hemmed long dress made of stitched pifia.

Apart from the fabrics, digitally printed geometric black and gray images became the collection's unifying element. Without a doubt, Santayana's simple, well-made pieces stood out for their cohesiveness and wearability; although some observers noted they could have shown more oomph for a showdown such as that night.

"Basically rough for me corresponds to a sick of creasing and was taken in the form of bio-silhouettes, sustainable fabrics and the use of digital prints, which is the first of its kind to pass international standards on safety both for the user and the environment," she said.

La Salle schoolgirl Ralph Ng, who, before entering the contest, was inclined for his beloved line heavily influenced by Joey Samson, produced a totally different collection consisting of short, skin-tight dresses with irregular hemlines, necklines and random cutouts.

He said that his, Ng, who also designs boutique and accent pieces for his mom's company, resorted to deconstruction in the form of boning that jutted out randomly from his rather minimal and unwearable dresses.

He used dyed "organic" cotton in blue, green, yellow and pink to represent each of the basic elements necessary to sustain life: water, plants, sun and air.

"They told me to come up with a breakthrough," he said, not bothering to hide his disappointment. "Instead of giving them conventional and glamorous clothes, I produced pieces with shapes and treatments which they have never been done before."

Bold attempt

Tesoro, a Fine Arts graduate of the University of the Philippines, used to design menswear clothes with his female classmates as a thing going on.

After learning the finer points of construction, pattern making and draping by attending a six-month intensive fashion design course at the Philippine Fashion Institute of Technology, he studied illustrating at the School of Fashion and Fine Arts.

"All I did before was deconstruct clothes even knowing how to construct properly," he said. "It's great to be able to realize your vision by knowing how clothes are actually made."

Tesoro, who has yet to set up a formal shop, was arguably one of the evening's most interesting and most applauded designers. He drew inspiration from "futuristic-plus" figures to produce ultralight and body-conscious dresses and corsets pieced together from cotton spandex, nylon, wool and "some" leather.

He also did his own shoes, including a hard iron platform that must have been torture on the poor model who had to walk on it, using almost the same materials found in his clothes.

Although the idea behind the collection was no longer new, it was a rather bold attempt for a newbie. Tesoro's virtually arresting collection betrayed some obvious problems in fitting, and this probably didn't escape the judges' notice.

"I have no problems with boning," said Tesoro. "I've never joined a contest before, but the fact that organizers already pre-selected us from 11 don't know how many is already validation enough for me."

LOOK Icons all: Nicole Whitehouse, Anne Gonzales, Ingrid Chua Go and Nikki Lim

SILVIA Singson and Cricket Santayana SAME Black

LOOK Icons, Ons, Delphine Dacia Puno and Lulu Tan Gan

SAMSUNG 3D LED TV represents breakthrough in technology and design

LOOK Icon Crickette Tanseco and husband Dennis Tanseco

SAMSUNG executives Paolo del Rosario, Chuyi Tan, Pen Reyes, Odette Velarde, Jean Singson, Mariel Aguirre and Jun Ramos

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Corporate lawyer Mela Mosqueda-Bengson does not fret over trials, in or out of court

Strong woman who knows how to let go

THE WORKING CLASS

Rex Silapan Go,
Contributor

MELA MOSQUEDA-Bengson has a bearing that commands attention. Her beauty is arresting; her round black eyes flirt danger.

Then, at the restaurant Bonsai's 21, someone palmed her ear to ear. I immediately spotted the St. John's wardrobe and Chanel accessories. She was a poised and classic woman...one who never had a bad hair day, I thought to myself.

I eventually meet Mela for the personal and interview.

My first impression is proven wrong. She does have a fun side, which is very charming. She lets her hair down before a select few. Even on the set for the pictorial, she has a powerful presence.

Mela graduated with a degree in Political Science from the University of the Philippines. There, she blossomed as a front-line debater who always emerged a winner. She

STRONG 42

Strong woman who knows how to let go

From page G1

then took up law at Ateneo, after which she took the bar in New York and passed.

Today the woman specializes in corporate law, cross-border transactions, mergers and acquisitions. Trained in New York, the capital of business corporate law in the US, Mela can really adapt to the rules of Philippine corporate law.

As a managing partner, Mela evaluates which client to accept. To clients, she offers angles and solutions. She performs risk management to avoid pitfalls. Even as her practice is research-intensive, she spares time to keep tributes.

She relishes her life to the fullest. Family, in a deep, hearty voice that contrasts with the feminine facade. I am amused by her candor. Her dark eyes—that steely glance—should give you an idea how focused she is. This is one woman who constantly proves herself in a predominantly male environment.

I like Mela's style. Outside of work, Mela mixes her down-to-earth self-to the exports in other fields in public her. Whether it be her health and beauty or fashion and tailoring, she relies on them. She allows her handpicked mentor designers, stylists, hairdressers and manicurists to pamper her. It is how she lets go.

This is Mela. She conquers realities as she touches, works very hard, plays as if everything depended on God. She does not live semi-trials, in or out of court.

Her creed is to laugh a lot, love a lot. Beneath the facades, Tilla and Gucci is a woman who draws all strength from love. Armed with this, she finds peace in her home—in her personal spa!

From casual casuals to global chic

'Penshoppe and Oxygen are taking a European stance'

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

It's a classic story—how a backyard operation is now poised to become a global brand.

In 1988, Cebuano entrepreneur Bernardo Lin and his buddies started a T-shirt business just to keep themselves occupied.

"My parents's store no longer got bogged a year. My cousin was to sell 1,000 dozens a month. That would be the pinnacle of our dreams," Lin recalls.

Today Lin is CEO of Golden ABC Inc., which has evolved into five fashion brands—Penshoppe for quality basics, the fashion-forward Oxygen, Kultivate—for women's body types, Alfonso for office wear and the upscale casual line Regatta. There's also a direct selling subsidiary Bed Logo.

The corporation sells over a million items a month—T-shirts and jeans (the top sellers), flip-flops, bags, apparel and accessories. The 2000 sales posted double-digit growth. At the past week, Golden ABC's brands are in 300 outlets all over the country.

On their success, Jasper Evangelista, vice-president for brand management, says: "We pushed up the brands and merchandise. We upgraded everything even in the organization. There's a great macroeconomic environment."

Eliseo Ong, vice president for business development adds: "We made our bed in basic[ics]." Ong also oversees Penshoppe's expansion in China and the Middle East.

Asian branch

But Lin and his company have been keeping their names to the grindstone. For the past decade, Golden ABC has been guided by Interak global marketing consultant Martin Hall, author of "Asian Brand Strategy".

"It's embarrassing that he's a European who believes in Asia more than Asians believe in themselves. He near few years will be the era of Asian brands. He has consulted for Samsung and Singapore Airlines. He said Golden ABC is poised to embrace the power[s] in Asia," says Lin over coffee at Manolate Deli.

Penshoppe is enhancing its image from campus casuals to an aspirational urban brand. It is envisioned as a global brand that could be as iconic as H&M. Penshoppe and its sibling brands have the ingredients—profitability and solid operations, constant innovation and strong ties to customers.

"At (Hall) believes marketing isn't just about superficial perceptions. When he assessed our organization and saw our capabilities, he was convinced to work with us in the long term. There are companies in the Philippines that are superficially strong outside, but internally there is no substance. It's easy to make ourselves popular, but is it sustainable? We are professionally run and ready to grow exponentially. When people say, 'Do you know Penshoppe?' Say, 'But do you know the people behind Penshoppe?' No. That's good. It was never my intention to be the sole person behind the company. My people are the team," says Lin.

MENS office wear

ROSA ITIM'S casual portfolio line

DR YUEN goes High Street.

CEO BERNARDO Lin is flanked by Jasper Evangelista and Eliseo Ong.

CHARLENE Gonzales is brand ambassador for For Ms.

In business, it is also pioneered the use of the bar code and SAP, a German enterprise resource planning software that boosts efficiency. So customers, this projects (Dress the needs of the merchandise in the store.

"All our systems are interconnected. We know what item is spectacular (an and color was sold and in which store. The system provides a sales update and facilitates inventory management. This helps in providing better selection and merchandise planning for our customers. In the end, it's got to benefit them," says Lin.

"We don't repeat tailcoats. There is always something fresh to inspire us to convince people to visit the store more often. While you see a style like this, you'd better grab it. Once it's out, that's it. Bins for the next collection. That's how we train customers and how we maintain profitability.

"A lot of retailers maintain a six-month inventory. We keep less than three months' inventory because of our systems and monitoring. We sell about 80-90 pieces per hour, and just have very few marked-down items. This is brought about by the efficiency in our operations. Those are things consumers don't know. But they will notice that there's always something new in the store and whatever they saw last month is very minimal."

Edgier fashion

The executives reveal their brands are being enhanced with new logos, edgier fashion images and new store designs.

For Philippine Fashion Week, Penshoppe and Oxygen are presenting their revitalized brand imaging, styling possibilities through layering, and mix-and-matching separates.

"Penshoppe's show is more theatrical, with surrealism with the audience. The past PFW themes—"Reviewing" then "Elevation of taste and standards"—delivered the brand's confusion. This year's theme, "The Artrolist," heralds a more polished look.

Says Evangelista: "Now we can confidently say 'We have arrived!'"

Oxygen presented its collection Oct. 20, and Penshoppe on Oct. 20, 7:30 pm, at SMX Hall 2.

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Innovations

In the fast-fashion industry, Golden ABC is known for its innovations. Penshoppe elevated the T-shirt by styling it with embroidery and precise stitching. Oxygen was born at the onset of street fashion, giving Filipinas more alternatives. Forms, which enhances women's body shapes, is successful because of the fitting. A recent acquisition, Regatta, is fine-tuning its classy but laid-back image—Ralph Lauren meets Sperry.

Colorful Christmas gift ideas

MEMBERS OF the expat community and foreign dubs, civic leaders, corporate executives and lovers of all things Filipino recently did their early holiday shopping during Kultura Filipina's Pre-Christmas bazaar in SM Makati.

Former Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz Araneta and Soledad Arias, wife of Spanish Ambassador Luis Arias, graced the event, as did BC Development Corp. president Carmen Yulo and former trade undersecretary Carlene Cruz-Evangelista.

Also seen shopping were Irene Marcos-Araneta, Patricia Araneta and Sofy Bonoan; Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez; beauty mogul Vicki Belo and her daughter Cristalle Heuvens; and international designers Yvette Theveard Ala Walsh.

Noted civic leaders such as Betsy Payad, Carol Llanillo, Olive Ang, Tess Beaty, Diane Collins and Shirley Baligasan graced the occasion, as did EcheVeritas founder Deb Aust, Kultura ng Kalusi's Vicky Peñalosa, Sharon Gloria and Liz Limpoco, Kalinga- Tyrona Foundation's Evelyn Manuopanyo, and Dilmunisa president Cecilia Manikaman.

SM Retail president Yoon Ae-Cheon and Inchcape Pilipinas vice president Joy Tup welcomed them.

The Pre-Christmas fiesta showcased Kultura's Holiday Collection, including holiday décor such as jolly Santa Clauses, traditional Nativity sets, dazzling baubles and tree décor, accessories such as stylish scarves, luxe pearls and embellished bags, and gifts such as fine wines and cigars. There were also corporate gifts such as embellished pens and ethnic-inspired desktop accessories.

Shoppers may also check out Kultura Filipina's Crafts for a Cause collection—products from livelihood projects of various foundations that have adopted poor communities as beneficiaries. These crafts put the heart into retailing and celebrate the joys of recycling with items such as parol or Christmas lanterns made from foil packs, ornaments from soda cans and versatile weaves from vines.

Kultura Filipina stores are located at SM Makati, SM Megamall, The Block at SM City North Edsa, SM Mall of Asia, SM City Cebu, and selected SM Department Stores. Visit www.kulturafilipina.com.

SOLEDAD Arias, wife of Spanish Ambassador Luis Arias, and Gemma Cruz-Araneta

IRENE Marcos and Patricia Araneta with SM Retail president Yoon Ae-Cheon

CORNERSTONE Investor Dee Joan and Zuzu Diaries IT Somerset Bong Pineda at right, beauty mogul Vicki Belo with daughter Cristalle Heuvens

JEWELRY designer Ala Walsh, Tonka Bercelles and Paddy Barnes

IMAGINAS designer Yvette Pierre

PHILIPPINE Tatler editor-at-large Mia Bernardo

KABISAKo Kalusi president Vicky Peñalosa and VP Aimee Gloria with Kultura's Aida Sinco

PHILIPPINE Christian Foundation's Perci Cristi

FROM LEFT: Kultura Filipina vice president Joy Tup and BC Development Corp. Crafts president Carmen Yulo Haresand Bianbica Goldsmith, Carlene Cruz-Evangelista

RECYCLED soda can pull-tabs are crocheted to create bags and accessories.

HOLT Family Home Foundation's Sr. Luz Maria Buitrago and Lolay Plantado

KAIBIGAN Events Foundation's Evelyn Manuopanyo

INSPIRATIONAL The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology with Inandoc officials made by inmates of the Quezon City Manila and Mandaluyong jails

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  - Perfect Geometry

Melissa De La Cruz

Misguided Angel

a Blue Bloods novel

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THE MEN'S ZONE AT WATSONS

Although men today are said to be more conscious of their appearance - think metrosexual - much of grooming for men remains quite basic. While it's all about maintaining a clean, well-kept appearance, there's actually a lot of work that goes into it.

It begins with knowing himself - his type of skin, all about his hair, his body type, and from this sort out which products are best to use and which routine to develop.

Watsons now has a Men's Zone, a one-stop shop for all the personal care needs of the modern man, and recommends some basic essentials and grooming tips to make him look good and feel great. Check these out at Watsons stores nationwide and at the Beauty Section of the SM Department Store.

FACE TO FACE

Using the right products and developing a sensible routine can go a long way in providing men with proper skin care. That's why it's important that they use facial care products for their face, and body care for their body. Men also have a tendency to develop more excess oil than women, and it is recommended that they use specially formulated facial care solutions to keep their skin clean, healthy, and glowing.

Watsons Men Facial Gel, Deep Cleansing Scrub, Facial Wash and Toner. Enriched with natural extracts to keep skin's elasticity and to fight oily skin, enlarged pores and deep wrinkles

Master Whitening Plus Facial Scrub, Toner and Moisturizer. Deeply cleanses, evenly whitens and effectively protects for a matte, shine-free skin

L'Oréal Paris Men Expert Pure and Matte Bright Charcoal Mask Foam, rids out oil and impurities with its salicylic acid-enriched formula

Nivea for Men Whitening Facial Foam. Mild cleansing foam lightens discoloration and maintains fair skin

THE SCENT OF A MAN

Men tend to have a stronger, more distinct scent than women because their high testosterone levels make them sweat more. While bathing and good hygiene are essential for smelling fresh, specially formulated products can work wonders.

Dove Men + Care Extra Fresh Body and Face Wash. Fights dryness with Micro Moisture technology, and delivers extra refreshness with its cooling formula

Polo by Ralph Lauren's Big Pony Collection. Choose from Sporty, Seductive, Adventurous and Stylish fragrances to suit your personality

Vaseline Men Body Lotion. Fast absorbing and moisturizing lotion with a subtle, refreshing scent

Axe Chocolate Body Spray. Its masculine, smoky and classic scent makes men smell good and confident

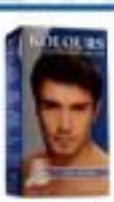
Clear Men Anti-Dandruff Shampoo and Style Express Shampoo. Eliminates dandruff as it strengthens and nourishes scalp and hair

Bigen Men's Speedy Color. Easy and speedy dye application in just ten minutes

Lab Men by Hair Wax. Style hair and give it a shiny finish with this strong hold hair wax

HAIR CARE ESSENTIALS

Men are more conscious of their hair than they'll ever admit. We all have family members and special someones who secretly spend hours combing their hair to find the right part, the right style. And how they agonize over what they perceive to be losing some hair or bad hair days. While men do not change their hairstyles as often as women, proper hair care can do they say, make the man.



Kolours Dual Conditioning Hair Color. Get long lasting color with this conditioning rich cream hair dye which added vitamin E and B5

JUST FOR MEN

Men will love, not only the great finds, but also the great bargains and promotions at Watsons and at the SM Department Store's Beauty Section this October and November.

A minimum P300 purchase with any men's grooming product entitles one to a Men's Zone Exclusive Pass. This coupon booklet will entitle them to cool discounts on selected personal care and hair products for men, making it easy and affordable to keep up with their grooming routine.

These include personal care products from Nivea for Men, Dove Men + Care, L'Oreal Paris Men Expert, Vaseline Men, Gillette, Master, Rexona, Fissan, Watsons Men, and Lab Works. Hair care essentials from Clear Men, Bigen, Kolours, and Regrow, as well as health and wellness items from Robust Dietary Supplements, Stressless, Cobra Energy Drink, and Durex. Now that's a great way to look good, feel great, and enjoy fun bargains!

What's more the Exclusive Pass entitles them to great savings at Watsons partner stores. They can avail of discounts on exclusive ACE items at ACE Hardware, selected Nike and Adidas products at Sport Central, as well as special savings at Kickers, Sanuk, Sledgers, Columbia, Dickies, Design 60, and DC.

Visit Watsons stores nationwide to get your Men's Zone Exclusive Pass to the best grooming values. These are also available at the SM Department Store's Beauty Section.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Hayden the man, on Hayden the new scents

EVERYBODY wants to smell good. The best for the best scent will never end. Personal tastes and our chemical makeup are individually different, so no one scent can claim to be the best for all.

Hayden Kho, like all of us, is also into scents. Now, he has come up with his own scents for men and women.

Why scents?

I always wanted to be in the business of personal care. I really love scents. Emotions are linked to fragrances. When you smell a scent that is familiar to you, it doesn't just evoke/recall the place and person (like a song would), but also the emotion you were feeling at the time. Like if you smell a scent that you wore on your first date, you will remember how you felt on that date.

Why Paris?

Paris is the fragrance capital of the world. Most of the best perfumers in the world are based there. I was also fortunate enough to work with the best perfumers while creating the scents. I didn't want the quality and price to be compromised, so I decided to have it bottled here. By doing so, the consumers don't have to pay for additional taxes. I've noticed that in the market today, it's either you get very inexpensive scents that don't last very long, or expensive scents that smell great but is very costly to the common person. Hopefully, these are affordable enough for everyone to enjoy quality scents.

Are you involved in the creation of the scents?

Yes, I am involved in the creation of the scents. I am very hands-on when it comes to my projects. I want to make sure that I am happy with the end result before I release it to the public.

Tell us about the scents.

Hayden Kho Fragrances is composed of two scents, one for men and one for women. The scent for men is a fresh, woody scent with a hint of spice. The scent for women is a floral, fruity scent with a hint of vanilla.

Where can we buy your scents?

Hayden Kho Fragrances are available at Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Cebu, Rustan's Davao, Rustan's Iloilo, Rustan's Shangri-La Mall, Rustan's Fairview, Rustan's Alabang, Rustan's Magnolia, Rustan's Marikina, Rustan's Pioneer, Rustan's Ortigas, Rustan's Makati Supermarket, Rustan's Cebu Supermarket, Rustan's Davao Supermarket, Rustan's Iloilo Supermarket, Rustan's Shangri-La Mall Supermarket, Rustan's Fairview Supermarket, Rustan's Alabang Supermarket, Rustan's Magnolia Supermarket, Rustan's Marikina Supermarket, Rustan's Pioneer Supermarket, Rustan's Ortigas Supermarket

Editor's picks

NARS Vintage Nail Shades are for colors you'd want to borrow when you're ready to party! There is a shade for every party girl in us. Blue great for those who want to jazz up their look. Available at Sasa.

CHANEL Holiday Collection Look. I see having to a new shadow this year. The shades are neutral enough to wear during the day, but pair intense for the night. The palette will also go with all skin tones.

If I COULD have a Diptyque candle for every room in the house, it would be heaven. Since you'll settle for one, it must won't be a hoop without it. Definitely recommended as Christmas gifts. Available at Sasa.

How to choose the perfect red for lips

NARS Red has supremely vibrant red lips

THIS HOLIDAY season, it's all about red. You can create festive story for this worldwide trend: in red lips. Have the courage and nerve to incorporate in your.

Red may seem like a fairly straightforward concept, but choosing the wrong shade can have disastrous results....shaky skin, yellow teeth, clinic contour. "Mom, my bronze" moment. To avoid such pitfalls, I've asked makeup artist Cecilia Lovato to show how to incorporate the perfect red lip in a look we can bring to the office.

"Prepare your face and lips for applying the perfect red. Moisturize and lip balm. Throughout the day, no matter how oily you think your skin is, it's likely dry; it never is, no matter what season. Conceal dark, undereye circles as well as blemishes and broken capillaries on the face. Bobbi Brown's Creamy Concealer is a personal favorite for the eye area. Give your day a break from heavy cream and liquid formulas and use mineral foundations for light to medium coverage without the overly matte finish.

"Fill in sparse areas of your brows with taupe-colored pencil and set the hairs with brow gel like MAC Stygian. Lighten eyebrows can give your face a younger and fresher look. To avoid one in a round of dust on your eyes, color an unconventional bohemian color like light pink. Iron the bone of your lashes to just above the crease, and blend well. In this photo, I used Shu Uemura BP Pink (10) eyeshadow base because it will more vanilla-color like Mac Myth. Line the upper and lower lash lines with dark brown pencil and coat lashes with your favorite black lengthening mascara.

BACKSTAGE PASS

Izabel Rocas

"Take a youthful, rosy glow with Shu Uemura Red Shade. Using a light hand, sweep a bit of the product to the fullest part of your cheeks and blend toward the ears.

"For the pièce de resistance of this look, blot all excess lip balm with tissue and carefully line and fill in your lips with bright red lip liner like Lancome Le Crayon Lip Contour paired in Brave. Using a lip liner will help the color last longer and prevent bleeding. The inside lip of a lip pencil also gives a more precise edge, making application easier for beginners prone to lipstick slip-ups. Finally, top with your favorite red gloss for a more luscious-looking pout."

—Gabrielle Lacoste, professional makeup artist

Discover the right kind of red can be a hard-to-please task, so here are some of the best red lipsticks.

Bobbi Brown Pot Rouge for Lips and Cheeks Pink Truffle

Pink Truffle is the luscious, light red, neutral red shade. The color looks as if you've been chewing on your lip or making out a popsicle. It accentuates (courtesy of Miranda K), and not at all sticky; apply this stain to your cheeks and lips, add concealer and mascara to your eyes, and you'll look awake and ready for work.

Mars Rouge Basque Lipstick

Inspired by the Grand French countryside, this luminous satin finish is the quintessential red from the Basque region. It is so deeply pigmented as the region's history and bold as the color. The need is heavier for.

Guerlain Rouge Gwen 69

Once you swipe on this luscious, creamy blue-red, your lips will be defined, plumped and hydrated. It's a shimmering lipstick tucked inside a chic, Parisian case. It's the ultimate accessory for mystery and seduction.

Guerlain KissKiss Baiser de Rouge

With its vintage-inspired packaging, Guerlain Bee0ded Lipstick in Baiser de Rouge (Rosy red) reminded I look cool in 1950's cat eye sunglass dressing little with gold-trimmed hand accent and headwrap set.

The Face Shop Facelt Wrinkle Repair Lipstick RD301

This shade has been described in blogs as "bright red lips" and it is really red—if you have try it—you can see a more sunny, show shade with lips showing. It's a wonderful orange red with an extremely creamy and creamy texture.

Estee Lauder Pure Color Rich Red

Though it has a pearly effect on lips, it feels wonderful moist not too glossy or dry. It has an amazing long-lasting texture, the right combo of matte and slick.

Max Factor Intensely Sunbronze

It's a bold color but not quite in-yo-light red—color red with gold sheen. When you're up for standing out in a crowd, this shade is appropriate. It's a bolder, more opaque formula, a was deep red.

Mac Perpetual Flame

This color is a thick and rich matte blue-red. Clearly Miss Vee Bone served as inspiration as she wore the moment of matte. This shade spells lust and seduction.

New in beauty

Treatment promises body sans bulges

COOLSCULPTING BY Zeltiq is a slimming treatment approved by the US Food and Drug Administration as a noninvasive fat-reduction technology. It is a method of body sculpting.

CoolSculpting uses cooling technology to freeze fat away and eliminate bulges like love handles, back fat or tummy fat.

A noninvasive applicator delivers controlled cooling to the area being treated to ripen fat cells' target sculpting fat, leaving the surface skin tissue unaffected. It gently cools untreated fat cells in the body until they are eliminated and eventually killed. These fat cells are then naturally flushed out similar to how fat from food is eliminated. The bulges are then reduced once the fat cells in the treated area are naturally eliminated.

With its US-FDA approval, the treatment is safe. It requires no needles, incisions, anesthesia or recovery period. It could target fat cells in your arms for sure the can round up flowers are left unbruised.

But CoolSculpting is not a substitute for weight-loss programs for overweight individuals. It's ideal for those who have stubborn problem areas, exercise, and diet-resistant bulges and those who have lost significant weight but have remaining flabby areas like love handles. Look for of tummy flaps. CoolSculpting facilitates spot reduction for those specific areas of fat. It's perfect for those who will not consider surgical procedure because of the risks involved and long recovery period.

Rima Ostwani and hair-free skin

RIMA OSTWANI, fashion consultant, model, up-and-coming TV host and latest endorser for Rusk Low Comfort LaserLight Hair Removal, sits down for a quick chat and shares her views on waxing, beauty and LaserLight.

Tell us about your Rusk Low Comfort experience

Going to Rusk Low Comfort is my pleasure destination! It's always a relaxing experience and a welcome break from my toxic schedule. When I'm there, my mind automatically shuts off all kinds of noise and I get some peace of the mind time. It's my kind of sanctuary. The entire spa is very clean and quiet with a neat ambience. It has all the luxuries of a college and top-quality amenities. I also love how the staff is always so warm and friendly to clients. All in all, is their business, a place where you would really enjoy relaxing.

So you've been LaserLight pregnant?

Yes! I've had four sessions so far. I have three more to go, then I'll be permanently hair-free! The experience has been pleasant and painless. I never thought hair removal can be this easy. It's as though I'm not even done with my progress, I already see visible results. There's less hair to grow, compared to before. My skin is actually very sensitive to chemicals and such, but Rusk never experienced any skin irritation or irritations with LaserLight. My skin remains smooth and flawless. I don't have to worry on how to shaved next morning or waxing again. That is what every woman wants!

LaserLight is suited for any skin color, hair texture and thickness, and it's recommended for men. Do not tweeze hair, like most people do. Expect skin to be shaken, smoother and permanently hair-free in just a few sessions.

To know more about Rusk Low Comfort LaserLight Hair Removal treatments, call 6565-0630 for free private consultation.

Time to scream for Krispy Kremes this Halloween

Time to treat! Time to have a bite to eat!

Open up, open wide, "Chomp, chomp" get that Krispy Kremes inside! Treat your family and friends to time (or date) for the halloween with a box (or two) of assorted doughnuts classic doughnuts. Well, topped or decorated with scrumptious candy bits. And remember that if you're unhappy about your treats this year, you're not going to a child!

To the season of BIG affections as your favorite doughnut shop rolls out a fresh lineup of Halloween themed goodies for everyone to enjoy until the end of October 2014.

Bite into emotionally disoriented doughnuts like The Crazy Pumpkin, The Skull (adventure Whole), The Spider Web (Jerome Whole), and Halloween Sprinkles. Made fresh everyday, you're sure to enjoy that Krispy Kreme taste and quality you love - and having a fun smashing pre-can share the treats all around. Available from 31 October '14 to 31 only, the Halloween themed doughnuts will be part of yearly celebration of the playfully ghoulish season. On the 31st, its all treats and no trick as Krispy Kreme for kids in their favorite costume.

There's some Halloween know you can share with the kids! Originally celebrating the Celtic feast of Samhain on All Hallows Eve (the day before All Souls Day and All Saints Day), it was believed that the border between the physical and spiritual worlds would become weaker on this particular day, allowing the undead to roam the living, so ancestors would be welcomed home with a feast.

Halloween pumpkins or jack-o'-lanterns were carved, lit, and left outside many days to ward off evil spirits on All Hallows' Eve. Did you know that long ago, a jack o'lantern would be carved from any vegetables like a turnip or gourd? Eventually other supernatural elements made their way into the celebration, such as witches and their black cats, skeletons, soldiers and spiderwebs, ghosts, skeletons, and ghouls, as Christian it was said to be a high feast day for souls wandering the earth.

Halloween made its way to the U.S. via European settlers who brought their traditions with them, including dressing up in scary costumes or masks, going from door-to-door, and playing pranks on those who were too stingy to give out treats. Other variations of trick or treat involved children displaying a special talent in their caroling, reciting a poem, dancing, and so on before receiving a treat.

Also celebrating the conclusion of the harvest season in the US and Canada, other traditions include bobbing for apples, telling ghost stories, wearing costumes, and lighting bonfires. Halloween TV specials were enjoying a rainy season this year when decorated with a playful or scary theme. It has since become part of some people's traditions to feature

Boo-tiful delectably decorated doughnuts like The Crazy Pumpkin, The Skull (adventure Whole), The Spider Web (Jerome Whole), and Halloween Sprinkles. Made fresh everyday, you're sure to enjoy that Krispy Kreme taste and quality you love - and having a fun smashing pre-can share the treats all around. Available from October 31 to 31 only, the Halloween themed doughnuts will be part of yearly celebration of the playfully ghoulish season. On the 31st, its all treats and no trick as Krispy Kreme for kids in their favorite costume.

a television (see no doughnut) featuring especially problem, spiders, webs, skulls, and pumpkins.

Carving or throwing pumpkins, Krispy Kreme has since decorated their doughnuts with pieces, monsters, and other Halloween elements. Yes, this Halloween at Krispy Kreme, there are no treats, it's all sweet treats for fans - and they're all scary good.

Pop over and any of the following Krispy Kreme Storefronts: Bonifacio High Street, Greenhills Shopping Center, Ortigas Tiendesitas, Alabang Town Center, Festival Supermall, Mall of Asia, Trinoma Cinema Level, SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita, Ayala Malls Manila Bay, Gateway Mall, Glorietta 4, SM City Aseana (North EDSA), Ayala Malls Feliz, Eastwood Mall, Ayala Malls Fairview Terraces, SM San Lazaro, Ayala Malls Circuit, and Ayala Malls Parkway. Also, be sure to log on to www.krispykremephilippines.com.ph and like a Friend of Krispy Kreme to get updates.

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DEL

CLOSE pals Mona Tantoco and Tatler editor Anton Sun Diego

TONY Boy Cojuangco and Kristine Bermas

ESTEEMED Cin-Sia, Tweetie de Leon Gonzales and Myrna Sison

MODEL-TURNED-RESTAURATEUR Tetta Ortiz-Mesina with Virgilio and Nenita Lim

STUNNING Carla Abellana

SEA Alonso with the Kashmira Lara consigned

MOMS Tantoco in sapphire blue fully draped satchel outfit by Kashmira at the Ferragamo event (current Sat. Friday's, patronage)

MIKEE Carson, Bianca Valerio, Luke Jirkuta, Peter Nimbal and Nikiwa Sandhal

HANDY Chris [illegible], Richard [illegible] and Jo Jopino

CHIC drape and cocktail outfit with sheer stretch tulle shoulder style, ruched dress with upper front drape

Wow fashion line; new Italian boutique in Cebu

OUR KING for a day, Atty. Boss Pons, with ballroom diva Becky Garcia and fiancee Jun Pons

LADY FIRST all roads, as all the killer shoes of the well-heeled led to the Gallery of Greenbelt 5 for the lab launch of Rashkovan wow ultra-luxe new line by our very own patronage, designer Randy Ortiz.

Inspired by the 1940s-era Parisian fashion house of Madame Elsa, Ortiz sent out seven same jersey outfits in various shades of brown, red, gray, white and eye-catching jewel tones. Highlights included Randy's takes on casual wear and holiday dressing.

Naturally, the runway models weren't the only ones in chic Rashkova. Beautiful socialites Lucy Torres-Gomez (who's Sen. Dicoma seven a night in behold. Lucy knows to wear ing an asymmetric red frock while Sea was in a lively elegant tulle-shouldered LBD with a halter collar.

"It has been so nice to work with Ron Chua and the whole Rench family," Randy said. "They gave me full creative freedom for this collection, which inspired me to do my best."

In fashion events I ask the women what they're wearing. "By nothing now," one told me. "Since I absolutely have nothing to wear, I chose this. Huh, 'nothing to wear?' But I know she has 15 closets full of outfits. Oh well, ai bida?

Beaming with pride was retail fashion leader Ron Chua, Fernandinos present included Carla Abellana, Atelier Lily Montenegro and several certified fashion gals, siblings.

DEMEY Perez, Rena Pons and Cheska Marapao

SEATED: Donna Ramirez, Nenita Campos and husband Vince Aldemar, standing, Ryan Calmares and Ariel Arra

VICKY Zobel-Lhuer Pons and Chichi Lizol

LIZA Tantoco and mine Sotto

PATRICK Lizol and Bonnie Pons

PINKY Pons and Ito Cortes

Birthday bash for hubby

Ann Santa Cruz-Perez, wife of Rene V Perez, organized a memorable celebration to mark her beloved husband's 50th birthday, siblings. Being a kitchen expert, Ann gallivanted a couple of close pals to a special exquisite dinner of home cooking.

It's no wonder the guests in their upscale, big home to sit-down cuisine: get enough of the two healthy organic salads, roasted escalantes, baked Mediterranean fish, hickory spareribs, sun-dried tomato pasta a la Italiana, and Ann's famous chicken relleno, topped by the to die for chocolate mud cake with the hottest fudge pic. Wow!

"Just known, Chinese," a guess told me. "American cooking is the art of taking food out of containers and putting in a microwave, then on plates. But Ann is a gem. It makes no difference what her menu is, we eat everything."

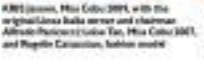
Amen, palangers.

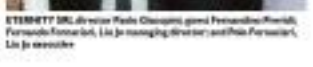
Being married with his former friends, and I had the chance to catch up on the latest happenings of my soulmate, Vicky Zobel. Fashion designer James Ibalon was with other fashion luminaries such as Lulu Tan Gan and Iris Carreon.

It was a great time, highlighted by the best friend, wine and meal bonding.

Happy birthday, Rene!

PINK Antonio, Anne-Jo Lhuillier, Iris Antonio and Agnes Montiel


KIKI Jacinto, Miss Cebu 2009, with the original Lirea Italia owner and chairman Alfredo Pastorfide Cuban Tan, Miss Cebu 2007, and Magelie Catanduan, fashion model


ETERNITY SRL director Paolo Giuseppe, guest Fernandino Pinerali, Fernando Fernandini, Liz Jo managing director and Pete Fernandini, Liz Jo executive

NONIE Badio (center) receives award for president of the Inner Wheel Club of the Philippines, and Dr. Bunny Cihuelo (2nd from right) receives the Golden Service Award for service in the club's charity desk, with event chair Bee Angeles (6th pos. 7th Abaya and NFCP) pres. Lucy Khokhanbook

Inner Wheel Club

The Inner Wheel Club of Quezon City (IWCQC) a composed of those women of charity the Rotary Anns of Quezon City, blazes the 1940s it has evolved into the vibrant and dynamic service club that it is today through community outreach programs, vocational scholarship programs, and year-round medical and dental missions that dispense free medicines.

Marking its golden year, the club has undertaken a housing project of 10 units for the "pioneers of the past" in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City. The program is in cooperation with Gawad Kalinga and the city government.

The club recently handed out awards to its outstanding members. The swinging dance dance was held at Manila Polo Club. Awardees were Esther Vibal, the first Asian president of International Inner Wheel; Caridad Velasquez, Nenita Badilla and Tonie Rodrigo, chairwoman of the District 376 Foundation. Dr. Bunny Cihuelo bagged the Golden Service Award "for meritorious medical service."

After dinner, the awardees and invitees hit the dance floor, to burn off the calories they took during the yummy five-course meal, siblings.

Italian brand Liz Jo

Italian fashion brand Liz Jo opened an eye-catching boutique at Ayala Center Cebu.

The launch had Cebu's fashionable set and heavy metal fashion tabloiding on the scene—two finger food—while sipping and nibbling. Once they reached Cebu's contemporary cutting-edge, down to the ramp in stylish Liz Jo outfits.

At the launch were fashion plate Marguerite Lhuillier and Lirea Italia chairman Alfredo Pastorfide, who enjoyed the commercial ribbon signaling the official opening of the store.

"Founded in 1995 by Italian brothers Marcus and Dennis Mundi, Liz Jo has captivated women from all over the world," said Kaniki Wann, Liz Jo's store/retail manager. "Today, the Liz Jo distribution network can count on over 150 multi-brand stores supporting the presence of the brand in 20 countries across three continents."

GENY Ad Rosario, Mini Jorge, Esther Vibal, Divine Sotelo, Grace Agustin and Director ITA chairman Ruby Pazos

SEATED, Lany Isaac, Nenita Badilla, Nanessa Blardony, Tonie Rodrigo, Lyn Mikels and Lynda Gerardez. Standing, GR head Tony Mateo, Tita Magat, Bayani Villanueva, Bobby Rodrigo and Dolly Gonzalez, GR head in Quezon City

SEATED, Hanna Villanueva, Bong Rivera, Cecile de Jesus and Cecile Ingles. Standing, publicists Gina Aguirre and Linda Bonifacio

HAROLDITE Lhuillier and Claire Hudson of The Style Firm-Cebu

LIU JO visual merchandiser Rocki Yeen, Lirea Italia operations manager Anne Bo-Gamon and fashion director Denise Alcaza of The Style Firm-Cebu

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arcache
Photos by Nora Van Haegen
powered by MAC SUPER

Shoes Wisely

Right fit, right shoe for injury prevention

By Marlon D. Salazar

Whenever you get an unusual sense that would cause instability on the foot...it's time to buy a new pair of running shoes.

DON'T take shoe issues and feet for granted.

While running is definitely a very good and inexpensive form of exercise, some untrained runners may not realize the need to protect their knees and feet.

Experts say that it is important to know the dangers of not wearing the right gear when they run.

Before browsing the web and scouring the stores for the brand and color of shoes you'd like to buy, you need to know what type of feet you have first.

According to triathlete and running coach Patrick Jones, there are three types of foot: flat-foot (overpronator), high-arched (underpronator), and neutral.

An overpronator or flat-foot is when the bottom of the foot from toes to heel is, well, flat. It doesn't have that arch or inward curve that one often sees in most feet. The underpronator (high-arched) is the opposite of the former: when the foot has that arch that is far from normal, shoe dealers say descriptively. Neutral feet is the normal type most people have, which means fewer problems in running as compared with the previous two types.

"Footwork," (Bookstir, 2003) a book by Nicholas A. DiNubile, M.D. and William Patrick says that the "best type foot for a risk factor for a wide variety of musculoskeletal ailments from heel pain, shin splints, and Achilles tendinitis to knee and low back problems."

Having the right shoe for one's shoe type doesn't ensure injury prevention but at least lessens the probability of getting an injury.

"Overuse's high-arched feet usually land out-ward of the foot," said Jones. It means that shoes with a soft midsole (flexible or cushioned) can absorb shock. "Flat-feet, on the other hand, tend inward when a person runs," he added. An athletic shoe that can maintain stability may help.

Neutral feet still have shoe curve but not as defined as the high arched. Still, there are athletic shoes made for neutral runners and there are a wide variety of brands and colors to choose from.

Also, there are two types of runners: heel striker or mid foot runner.

Jones, who coaches triathlete runners like Terenbe del Leon, said, "Your shoes should adapt to you and not the other way around. It is important to know your foot type to prevent injury and possibly achieve efficient gait."

The usual problem runners experience in finding the right fit of shoes "It should be a half size bigger to allow expansion of the foot," Jones said.

Depending on how often or how long you run, a pair of running shoes can last to up to six months, according to Jones. Some running shoes may be quite expensive but the technology and science behind it most often pays for the cost.

Jones added that the shoes' sweet spot/pronator should not always be the basis to entire shoes. "Whenever you get an unusual sense that would cause instability on the foot, time to buy a new one," he explained.

Running shoes can last longer if "runners possess an efficient gait and make it a point to run in various terrain such as grass, dirt, or asphalt," said Jones.

Jones said that those runners whether runs professionally or for leisure, must invest in good running shoes and must never miss other inclusive running like toe first and running types to maximize the benefits of the sport.

Heelz.Hobbo elevates the 'heel' to art level

Casual and luxurious OluKai

Organic care products minus the big tab

Locally manufactured products are about half or even a quarter of the price of imported organic ones

By Fran Kanigsberg

THERE'S A GAMUT of organic body-pampering items out in the market but their price points can be intimidating. So how do you "green" your vanity basket minus the big expense?

Ecobeth

"Organic products can be very expensive if you import them, but they can be less costly if locally manufactured," said Jared de Guzman, brand manager for Women's Personal Care Stores Philippines, during the launch of beyond Bath Organics at Manila Bayfront Spa.

Beyond Bath, which is manufactured locally by cosmetics trading firm Globalchange Corp. (GSC), offers items at an average P245—about half or even a quarter of the price of imported organic products.

The range of organic beauty and personal-care treats includes the hair care line of shampoo and conditioners with cleansing and volumizing properties, as well as the bath and bodycare line which consists of soap bars, lotions, body scrubs, body butters and liquid body wash. Bath and body treats have pure cleansing, skin-lightening and soap-free soothing or rejuvenating variants.

ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY: hair and body treats with grapefruit, sunflower and lina inchi active ingredients

Face value

"The packaging is very simple because... we want to show consumers they are paying not for over-the-top packaging but what's inside the bottle and what the brand stands for," said De Guzman.

All products are free of alcohol, mineral oil and parabens, a class of low-cost chemicals usually added to pharmaceutical and cosmetic products as preservatives.

In lieu of parabens, which cover studies suspect of being carcinogenic or cancer-causing, Beyond Bath uses essentially all-natural and naturally derived preservatives.

Active ingredients sunflowers, grapefruit and the newly discovered lina inchi seed oil offer the benefits of skin-friendly nutrients like vitamins E and C, high amounts of antioxidants plus anti-aging properties.

Lina inchi oil has even been "eco-certified" by Ecocert®, a European authority on naturally and organically derived cosmetic ingredients.

Sponsoring preservation

"Our products are anchored in a sense that we require suppliers to provide eco-certificates for the ingredients," said Morin. "Anyone can say it's organic... but they can't produce eco-certifications for the raw materials."

Morin said thorough investigation and analysis are means for the Grand Auth formulators was created for tropical conditions—therefore suited to fit-prone skin—and with the feel of a regular bath or bodycare product.

"Most organics are thin-color and texture because they don't use thickening agents but, with Beyond Bath, you get the benefits of natural and organic products without the usual downsides," she said.

To further the green advocacy, Beyond Bath has partnered with environmentalist group Hanjoy Kalikasan in sponsoring the preservation of a one-hectare forest at La Mesa Watershed, the major source of water to Metro Manila.

The brand also made a commitment, in behalf of each media participant at the launch, to adopt and plant a tree at Eco-park Nature Reserve, under the Adopt-A-Tree Program of Hanjoy Kalikasan.

These projects, said De Guzman, are in keeping with Watsons's aim to develop Beyond Bath as an advocate of having a green environment and sustainable future for everyone.

Hayden . . .

From page 6-E

-everything!

Throwing it hands-on with the project. I put my heart and soul into this—down to the ribbon. As you can see, it is very straightforward.

Yes, only the color changes.

I did that intentionally. It's symbolic. We all want out the same, and it really is up to us how we color our lives.

What makes you happy in life?

White. It's a spectrum of colors. And for emotions, yellow for faith, green for creativity, and blue, because now I'm taking charge.

I like how the scents smell. Very impressive. I particularly like green tea and peony.

Thanks! Do you think your husband will like the men's line?

I do.

I'm glad to hear that. I'm excited about the scents and, to be honest, nervous about how they will be received.

Judging by the way they smell, they should be a hit! Where are they available?

Trinoma, Glorietta 3, SM Malls. We should be open by Oct. 30. We also do special orders and delivery (E-mail info@hayden.com.ph or call 570-7768 or 584-2283).

Tips

The best place to spray perfume is on your pulse points, meaning the folds of your elbow, neck, wrist and cleavage. I like spraying perfume into the air and walking through it, since it becomes lighter and more evenly distributed.

A good way to stay smelling good is to layer your scent. This means using the scents of various products such as shower gels and lotion. Some scents even come in matching deodorant and wet towels. This makes the batch more special.

Don't keep the scent under direct sunlight, as this changes the chemical make-up, and sometimes the color, of the scent. Also, make sure the bottle is closed tightly to keep your scent from evaporating.

The best way to decide on a scent is not by how good it smells on your friend, but by how good it smells when you have it on.

Now, with Hayden's new line of scents, I was pleasantly surprised it smelled really good. Try it...or give it as a gift.

Editor Ernie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

FINALLY. A date and venue for the Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez wedding

No privacy in this 'wedding concert'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE ANTICIPATED wedding of singers Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez will push through on Dec. 22 at Club Picnic Peopo, an exclusive beach resort in Nasugbu, Batangas, according to GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment TV Wilma Galvante.

A TV special, showing highlights of what is dubbed as the "wedding of the year," will air on Dec. 26 on the Kapuso channel, Galvante announced at a media gathering last week.

For several months, the date and venue of the Alcasid-Velasquez nuptial has remained unknown to the public.

Mr. Alcasid previously said he wanted the ceremony to be a very private affair.

"It will be a wedding concert. The best local performers will all be there. We are working very closely with the event organizer. The TV special will be the network's gift to Ogie and Regine," Galvante added.

The Kapuso exec also belied the rumor that actress Isabel Oli, a GMA 7 contract artist, has agreed to be cast of Willie Revillame's no-holds-in-the-row game show "Willing Willie" on TV5. "She's strong, down with us on this. She can't accept any projects outside GMA 7. If it's for her, we would not allow her," Galvante pointed out. "What's sure is that we are cutting her in one of our drama shows."

Galvante also clarified that signing Binibining Pilipinas Universe Venus Raj is not an exclusive GMA 7 artist, contrary to earlier reports.

Talk has it that Revillame is also eyeing Raj to co-host in his show. "Her contract with the Binibining Pilipinas Charities is for 18 months after the pageant. GMA 7 is having given the first option to sign her up as an exclusive network talent. We can only discuss this when her contract expires," Galvante explained.

The TV special will be GMA's gift to Ogie and Regine

Galvante, however, refused to comment on the ongoing off-beyou-tween talent manager Annabelle Rama and actress-host Evangeline, who will play the lead character of the fantasy-adventure series "Dwarfina," she stressed. "The problem is between the two of them. What's important is that I trust will all do the show."

The 23-year-old actress, who plays a girl cursed with dwarf-like features, is paired with multi-tal ider Dennis Trillo. Mike Tolentino directs the show that will premiere next month.

The press con was held to an-

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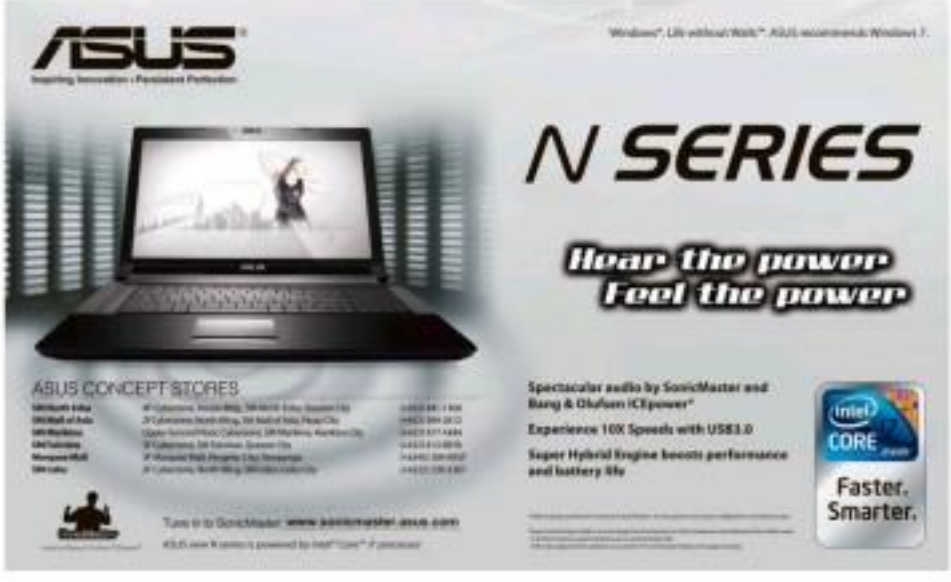

A 'Glee-ful' Christmas

NEW YORK—They have covered Madonna and Britney and gone from Journey to Lady Gaga. So it seems only natural, with the holidays coming soon, that the cast of hit TV musical "Glee" is now singing about Christmas.

Columbia Records on Tuesday unveiled plans to release a Christmas-themed album featuring multifarious holiday tunes like "Jingle Bells" and "O Holy Night" sung by

A HOLIDAY album for the cast of the hit TV musical "Glee"

the show's cast.

"Glee: The Music, The Christmas Album" goes on sale on Nov. 16, a few weeks ahead of a special "Glee" Christmas episode to be broadcast on Fox on Dec. 7.

A sometimes dark, subversive comedy featuring a high-school choir, "Glee" has taken US pop culture by storm since its 2009 debut. Its premise: the Madonna, Britney Spears and Lady Gaga roughly agreed to license their songs to the show.

Over 5 million "Glee" albums have been sold around the world. —Reuters

No privacy...

From page 1

season. Kapuso shows lined up for the last quarter of 2010, as well as for the first months of 2011.

The longest-running gag show "Bubble Gang" will pay tribute to the late comedy muse Ilonq Tayag Villasin through a heroic-comedy musical to air tonight. To mark its 15th anniversary, the "Bubble" barkada has added new members to their team—Jackie Rice, Sam Pinto, Gwen Zamora and Ellen Adarna, collectively known as the Bubbletes.

The top-rating talk show "Idol sa Isip Jeep" starts its month-long talk anniversary celebration with a Halloween special on Oct. 31. In the coming weeks, hosts Boy Tarigan and Joey de Leon will share in spitting stories of Pinoys living it rich in Dubai and New Zealand.

The highly publicized fight between Philippine boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and Mexican-American Antonio Margarito at the Dallas Stadium in Texas will air on Nov. 14, Gobrans reported.

Rare-care series

Scheduled to premiere in December is the romantic-comedy series "I Hear You Part," featuring Regine Velasquez and Jaclyn Jose. Dingdong Dantes, "It lets the viewers peek into the flamboyant lifestyle of gays and drag queens," Gobrans explained.

Richard Gutierrez returns to the small screen via Mari Jose's "Captain Barbell" as the first quarter of 2011. Alfred Vargas, of the new-defiance series "Tinulo Ng," will topline the afternoon drama special "Batang Milyonaryo."

Marian Rivera will lead the cast of "Amaya," the first historical fiction soap opera. "The story dates back to the 1200s. We are coordinating with the historian department of the University of the Philippines to make sure that every detail on this show is accurate," said Lilybeth Rasonable, GMA 7 vice president for drama.

"Bunny Bulaq" the first homosexual-themed sitcom, is a companion show hosted by Chris Tsu and Leo Rivera, premieres on Nov. 13. The top-rating reality show "Survivor Philippines: Celebrity Showdown" airs its final episode on Dec. 3.

5 most gripping films about possession

LOS ANGELES, California— "The (not Exorcist)" follows the (unstoppable) disturbing behavior of a (teenage girl living on a remote Louisiana farm who may or may not be possessed by some sort of demon. Strange things have been happening, prompting her deeply religious father to call upon a famous preacher to rid her body of what he assumes must be (evil) spirit.

It is some of the most (startling stuff you will see in scary movies, but there are various kinds of possession, lots of examples in film of people's bodies being taken over, often in the name of laughs instead of thrills. Here are five movies about possession, demonic and otherwise, that will take hold of you:

LINDA Blair in "The Exorcist"

JACK Nicholson in "The Shining"

HARRIET Sherry in "Hooters Can Wait"

STEVE Martin in "All of Me"

• "The Exorcist" (1973)

Of course, we have to go with this one first. The (legacy) is iconic: the spinning head and the projectile pea soup, the scrambling bed and those profane words coming out of sweet little Linda Blair's mouth. William Friedkin's film received 10 Oscar nominations and won two (for William Peter Blatty's screenplay and for sound), and it was the first horror film to be nominated for Best Picture. Even today, when horror movies feature much more graphic violence, "The Exorcist" clicks to the bone, mainly because the story idea of a 12-year-old girl being possessed by the devil is so disturbing. This is still one of the scariest movies ever made, if not the scariest. But it has rough competition from ...

• "The Shining" (1980)

One of Stanley Kubrick's most visually striking films, based on the Stephen King novel (although King himself was famously unhappy with it). The sense of isolation gets to at least big, rambling Overlook Hotel. If the snow, in the dead of winter, is enough to make you feel uneasy, but the idea that supernatural spirits in the place could take over a man's body and prompt him to try to kill his wife and young son is just terrifying. There is nowhere to run. Kubrick was a master at breaking you out with camera angles, lighting and pacing, but the film's surreal imagery, the look on Jack Nicholson's face alone, remains haunting three decades later.

• "All of Me" (1984)

A great showcase for Steve Martin's extreme gift of physical comedy and Lily Tomlin's brassy assurance. Martin makes you believe he is really split in two: that the soul of Tomlin's character, a dead millionaire, has accidentally entered his body and that both are vying for control over it. What he does here is crazed and precise all at once. This absurd premise is played as if it makes total sense, and that is why it works. See for all the cringeplus between these two disparate characters, and all the delightfully nutty stuff he and, carefully controlled by Lily Tomlin as one of his better ex-wife traps as a divorcee, an unexpected (sinfulness) eventually develops.

• "Ghostbusters" (1984)

A comic classic, obviously—let's just get that out of the way and move on. The phrase "hey you the Keymaster!" spoken by a possessed

HENRY Hudson, Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray and Harold Ramis in "Ghostbusters"

(g)ozzy Moore's (s) clinky (c)ool clothes and wild hair and makeup, is instantly recognizable all those years later. But as Bill Murray leaves in the (k)ind of (c), confident per(s)onality that is (m)ild-mannered of his work in the '80s, there is no Dana, only Zuul. Dana's body (t)akes over by a demon-ic beast living in her (b)asement (a)s high (a)s, causing her to roll her eyes, roar and float above her bed. Director Ivan Reitman takes all this (s)upernatural demonic possession imagery and uses it to amuse us rather than make us scream.

• "Heaven Can Wait" (1978)

Warren Beatty showed off his (c)omedic (c)hops in this screwball comedy (throwback, a remake of 1941's "Here Comes Mr. Jordan.") It was nominated for nine Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and won one for its (d)irector. Beatty, as co-director with Buck Henry and co-writer with Elaine May, is of course the star as a Los Angeles Rams quarterback who's killed in an accident but finds himself sent back (a) (e)arth in the body of an (e)conomic hellion actor. But (J)oan (C)usack and (C)harles (G)rodin do great, (c)heesy supporting work, and (w)ho (C)hristie could not be lovelier. Subtle, sweetness and (c)harm (c)ertainly (s)teal (e)ssentially here. —AP

'Imortal': Lazy imitation of 'Twilight'

By Amy Mikels
Contributor

THERE will (s)everal moments in the pilot of the new ABS-CBN fantasy (s)eries "Imortal" where the show looks like it could lead to something interesting.

In the opening sequences, Liza (Angel Locsin) works to connect the (s)ocio(p)olitical (s)tory of vampires with Filipino mythology (a)s the Spanish invasion, (c)ontrasting the (e)xercises of the Spanish government to one (s)elf-(h)ealing (v)ampire was a smart move—one that the show spends 11 minutes into the pilot (e)pisode.

Instead of working the metaphor of how the ruling class (e)xploitively sucks the (m)arrow out of the working class, Lo, the show's (c)entral audience, the rest of the episode—and the three weeks that followed) prior to this review—(c)ontinued (w)ith Locsin and the (u)tterly likeable John Lloyd Cruz in a (s)wirling (m)elo(m)ash of each (p)aranormal pop-(c)ulture hit in (r)ecent (h)istory.

ANGEL Locsin

What (c)ensor (s)ees?

It's as if a network executive heard (s)omeone say "(v)ampire" (s)omehow that made the sounds to (2)00 (w)hich is (n)ot too (f)orgot, cast (t)hen (s)ent (m)anic Marian Rivera and Rayver Cruz in Bella and (E)dward (k)nockoff (t)hey would do that without paying (l)icense (f)ees to Stephenie Meyer?

There are deliberate (m)isconceptions (o)ften most established fantasy franchises (s)ustained throughout the (s)eries. Jamaal Hilario's Roman (m)oves (b)etween wife Lara Quigaman (a) (b)ody (w)alkey (m)ovie like "(T)wilight"-(f)ervent.

And (e)ven if you decide to give them the benefit of the doubt on whether the vampires (a)re (s)even-(s)econd (s)hocks that (s)eems like (s)ocio-(s)atire, (s)ocio-(s)atire (s)uch (a)s (s)ocio-(s)atire (s)hould (b)e (s)ocio-(s)atire (s)ocio-(s)atire (s)ocio-(s)atire

As women swarm around him, Aga Mublach turns serious

By the Entertainment staff

A MEMBER of the Ruffles team found himself in the company of Aga Mublach and friends recently at Republiq, a dance club in Resorts World Manila.

One of Mublach's buddies said the actor had a day off from work and was chilling out at home in Alabang, but then decided to go for a night out.

The 2,000-capacity Republiq was packed to the gills that night. A smiling Mublach tried to enjoy his time by dancing to the pulsating music. But occasionally, around, evading to have their picture taken with him.

He didn't mind, obliging to all photo-op requests with his usual smile. "Look around you," he told Ruffles, "there are girls all over. It's quite easy to lose yourself here ... but you have the presence to give us. What's important is your friendship ..."

Who he drank?

One of his friends whispered to Ruffles, "Hindi, gumawi talaga yan. Sigio na lang magsasalita ng anyone kahit malaya or magulo."

RUFFLES SPECIAL

AGA Mublach is caught dancing at Republiq

Top-earning dead celeb

NEW YORK—Michael Jackson's sudden death sparked an outpouring of grief around the world, but fans also opened their wallets to make him this year's top-earning dead celebrity with $275 million, Forbes said on Monday.

Elvis Presley came in second, earning $160 million from administration of his former home, Graceland, which is now a museum and tourist attraction in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jackson was 50 when he died in the Los Angeles home on June 25 last year, shortly before a planned series of comeback concerts in London. The singer left behind three children and a debt of $500 million.

But his estate has generated millions since his death, mostly through record sales, the "This Is It" concert movie, licensing rights, deals to release new albums and a Cirque du Soleil stage show in Las Vegas.

"Thanks to a lucrative catalog, hit film and album sales, the last thing of pop musical more in the last year than Lady Gaga, Madonna and Jay-Z, combined," said Forbes writer Lacey Rose. /Reuters

'Sacha' bad experience

LOS ANGELES—A newsmen-mad Sacha Baron Cohen on Tuesday, claiming his civil rights were violated when he was roughed up by a fiery-area shooting the comedian in character as "Brüno" during a gay marriage rally in Nov. 2008.

Mike Hall, a self-described gay journalist, sued Baron Cohen and others involved in the 2009 film "Brüno" for more than $25,000 in damages for alleged physical and emotional pain and suffering.

Hall's lawsuit claimed he was shoved, pulled and threatened with wooden signs as he filmed the comedian in character as gay Austrian fashion journalist Brüno.

In a court sent to Baron Cohen's publicist, Matt Labov was not immediately returned. /AP

If walls could talk

LOS ANGELES—Actor Charlie Sheen was taken to a New York hospital for what his publicist said Tuesday was an "allergic reaction," but which local media said was due to a drug-fueled spiral at a hotel.

"What we are able to determine is that Charlie had an adverse allergic reaction to some medications and was taken to the hospital," Sheen's publicist Stan Rosenfield told AFP.

But People and other entertainment magazines said the 43-year-old star, who is one of the best-paid TV actors, was hospitalized after causing serious damage to his room at the Plaza Hotel, where police found him drunk, naked and in the company of a woman.

Police responded to complaints about a drunken individual in the hotel, People said, adding that the actor was removed from the premises "for alcohol abuse and psychological evaluation."

Sheen in August pleaded guilty to an assault charge arising from a violent Christmas Day altercation with his wife Brooke Mueller, while vacationing in Aspen, Colorado, but avoided jail under a deal with prosecutors.

The star of sitcoms "Two and a Half Men" and "Spin City" was sentenced to probation and ordered to undergo 30 hours of anger management counseling.

Media reports said Sheen on Tuesday was one week shy of ending his probation.

Sheen had several run-ins with the law in the 1990s in cases related to drugs, domestic violence and prostitution.

He has also been accused of assaulting his ex-wife actress Denise Richards, a former Jaime Bond girl. /AFP

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last week's goldfish on TV (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

♦Claudine Barretto on rumors linking her ex Derek Ramsay's friend Marlo Garcia:

"Sana, sana tapos na. Ayo huhong ang huhay, may problema na naman e. Ito ID lang ang hanalin yourself and the problems, anyways." (Huh?)

♦Annabelle Rama on Dean Evangelista's decision not to renew her co-management contract:

"Pinagsasabong pa ng hindi na sila nagpaawang resistant sa akin. Ano ang dinaker nila? Ito lang ang hindi nila alam, nasa mine and go. Iba's learning mga managers, nahanap pa at nahirap-hirap. Go girl. Good luck! Ha-ha-ha!" (Obviously, may nagsabong si Annabelle.)

♦Raymond Gutierrez on the same issue:

"I'm very gonna deny that I feel like I'm caught in the middle of it because I understand my mom's side. But also, I don't wanna take it personally against Heart but also in, [my parents do enjoy] maybe decide as career rips, [Did you hear that, Annabelle?]

♦Ruffa Gutierrez's message to John Lloyd Cruz:

"So, for me, if you're going to stay away from me, John Lloyd, just please walk your talk and practice what you preach. Kasi it's not enough that you're cute and lovable. We should also have to have a backbone. Kung hindi eh, bayang pamalengke ang ginagawa mo, bayang mo na lang gano'n or bayang mo na lang aalang-anagin. Because I hate better things to do!"

Sharing no-no! Claudine Barretto accepts!)

♦Kris Aquino on meeting Isabel Oli, who's being linked to James Yap:

"I said hi. Sabi ko, 'I'm Kris!' I know you're Isabel. Hindi ko naga-agree sa mga tsismis, naiintriga na nga sila sa Sabi ko, 'Hindi, ha. Isaw you've met me!' and she just said, 'Oo!' Ngiti-ngiti, hindi sumasagot [Hyperbolic.]

♦Boobay Lanta on romantic duo nun caught kissing BCMonster:

"Kasi we're good friends. Ayaw nun somebody saw us kissing in a pool. What? Where did it come from? Kasi ngo we're friends." (Expectations only high)

SHOW BIZ luminaries Pinky Bautista, Gloria Romero, Dido Kuzon, Pilita Corrales and the late Oscar Obligacion's wife Myrna Reds Dr. Barry Pantanes, who's launching his book "Reds Tanner: The Filipino Stars of Yesteryears, Vol. 1" on Nov 6, 3:30 p.m. at National Book Store Cubao.

ENTERTAINMENT

How 'Bubble Gang' keeps it fresh and funny

By Marinel R. Cruz

MULTI-AWARDED comedian Michael V is convinced that the late novelty singer Voyay Villame should be conferred the National Artist Award.

TAKE FIVE

"He was a genius," said Bitoy, who is an original cast member of the longest-running gag show "Bubble Gang." "I am a big fan of Voyay. I would gladly campaign for him if I have to. He's my idol."

Villame, or Ramon Tococo Villame in real life, popularized the songs "Rainy Rik," "Inuman and Barok," "My Country, My Philippines" and "Take It! Take It!" among many others. He recorded more than 20 albums, won several awards and made a lot of hits that earned him the title of "King of Philippine Novelty Songs."

For its 15th anniversary celebration, "Bubble Gang" pays tribute to the legendary singer-composer and comedian with a horror-comedy musical extravaganza. The hour-long show, which airs tonight, is inspired by Villame's song "Ang Kwento ng Kalbo."

THE girls of "Bubble Gang" (L-R) Jackie Rice, Ellen Adarna, Maureen Larrazabal, Rufa Mae Quinto, Gwen Zamora and Sam Pinto

WENDELL Ramos, Antonio Aquitania, Michael V, Ogie Alcasid and Boy1 Quizon

Zombies invade four cable channels

THE PILOT episode of "The Walking Dead," a suspense TV drama series, premieres on basic cable channels—Sun (Channel 23), Cable Channel (CC), Star World, FX, and Channel 9—on Nov. 3 at 11 p.m. The next episodes air on Fridays on Star.

The serial has you, stout "Cops Gone By" semi-police still, or Rick Grimes waking up from a coma only to find a world overrun by zombies.

Based on a comic book creation of Robert Kirkman, "The Walking Dead" tells the story of the zombie and years that followed after a zombie apocalypse. It follows a group of survivors in Atlanta, other community moved in search of a safe and secure home.

The series stars Andrew Lincoln as Rick Grimes, Sarah Wayne Callies as Rick's wife Lori, Chandler Riggs as Rick's son Carl, and Jon Bernthal as Rick's police partner Shane Walsh.

The cast also includes Laurie Holden and Jeanna Bellas as Andrea and Amy, Jeffrey de Munn as Dale, and Steven Yeun as teenager Glenn.

Fantasy drama

Gildon Boyne and Lutz Mandanovanti ng in Robot Martelli's "Kakak," tomorrow's the sun in the fantasy-drama on Boulog "Wawapanatayo."

The story tells of Ines (Cristine), a beautiful lady who flees in the forest. Trapped with a stone, she turns into a frog or, say time she bleeds. When she crosses paths with a man (Gelo) who falls in love with her, will the stone hinder them from being each other?

The episode airs on ABS-CBN tomorrow after "TV Patrol Sabado."

For more updates, log on to www.abs-cbn.com or http://wordpress.com/myspace.com and follow @abs-cbn network.

Traffic updates

DZMM partners with the Metro Manila Development Authority to bring the latest traffic news and updates to Filipinos via "Metro Traffic Live."

DZMM Radyo Patrol 630 and DZMM TeleRadyo are computerized traffic reports straight from the MMDA Traffic Operations Center in Makati City.

Actual footage of traffic situations captured by MMDA cameras around the metro can also be seen on GMA.

ABS-CBN Manila Radio Director Head Ano Mustaj and aide from traffic updates. "Metro Traffic Live" also carries information MM DA an emergency hotline and radio at 4. Motorists may lend to road closures or heavy traffic.

Potluck party

This Sunday on "Inkulasyon," food lovers fans Oh and their favorite dishes in the Apat Dapat season' next potluck party-covered.

Homemade lasagna, shrimp pasta salad and Kalye brownies are just few of the dishes on the menu.

The show, which airs 6:30 p.m. Q (Channel 11), has Dale Valdez as special guest.

'Bible-on-air'

UNTV's "Sing Chasing Dean," a Bible exposition on-air program," airs in the continents of Houston and Europe with the international title "The Old Path."

It has also started in broadcast in India, Uruguay, Africa and Papua New Guinea.

The program, hosted by preacher Mano Soriano, started on radio in 1990 before hitting the TV screens in 1993.

Soriano also actively preaches on Twitter and in his blog Imanos.wordpress.com.

'Red' is leaden caper for Willis

CRITICS often gripe about the films and you've endured a litany of action-arguments in today's Hollywood thrillers.

The spy caper "Red" admirably rejects the trend, viewing things down to a delightfully piss appropriate for vintage-lunching-on-grit actors Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Helen Mirren.

Yet despite the impressive cast, which includes Mary-Louise Parker, Richard Dreyfuss and Ernest Borgnine, this latest adaptation of a big graphic novel fails to fill in the spaces between the actors with anything terribly interesting.

Director Robert Schwentke ("Flightplan," "The Time Traveler's Wife") aims for a mix of action and comedy but never quite delivers on either.

Interminable gunplay

The action is OK, though nothing you haven't seen done better. Some of the gunplay becomes interminable, the filmmakers running buildings and vehicles into Swiss cheese as characters fire off endless rounds of ammo.

The laughs are also slight and sporadic, sitting inconsistently on and feels Bunker unable to generate enough clever interplay among the story's band of ex-CIA operatives targeted for elimination. It is a huge missed opportunity, given Willis' ability to deliver wry comic themes and the brilliant on-screen call whom he could have been bouncing lines unreasonably.

Willis' Frank Moses is a former black-ops monster put out to pasture, living pretty pre retirement with his love interest (Mary-Louise Parker) who he signed down up at his rather bare house in small hats.

Bringing his assailants, Frank reasons whoever is behind this plot will go after the people he cares about, so he

AGING ACTION HEROES: Helen Mirren, Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman in a scene from "Red"

JOHN Malkovich as a trigger-happy conspiracy theorist

renders call to present Sarah (Parker), a federal pension benefits worker he has been awkwardly courting by phone.

With low gift for playing wily and dizzy at the same time, Parker is the best thing about "Red" as her widowed, innocent Sarah, longing to escape her office cubicle and have some adventure, becomes Frank's gung ho confederate on a zigzag gang trek around the United States.

Frank gradually reassembles his old team, including wry nursing home denizen Joe (Freeman), trigger-happy conspiracy theorist Marvin (Malkovich) and classy but deadly Victoria (Mirren).

Unpleasant moments

Together, they go up against an ace CIA hitman (Karl Urban, who brings surprising warmth to an underwritten role), his hardboiled agency handler (chastity-minded Rebecca Pidgeon, who is about as menacing as, well, a pigeon), and a ruthless corporate profiteer (Dreyfuss, and who knows what he was thinking when he signed on to play the smirking, unpleasant, thoroughly unamusing creep).

The 91-year-old Borgnine has a couple of pleasant moments as a CIA archivist, as does Brian Cox as an old Cold War rival of Frank and his team. Julian McMahon is unfortunately shocking as the appropriate view president.

Simply by shooting up, Freeman and Mirren bring grace and spirit that flatchinky developed characters do not really possess. As for mad dog of the bunch, Malkovich is surprised to be the funny one, but he sets the pace of the production too somberly, his rabid zeal for his part is drawn-consistent laughs.

While there is decent variation in his "Die Hard" act, playing a supremely capable hand in gunfights or car chases but a gaudy schoolboy when it comes to romantic relations, there's just not enough "Yippee-ki-yay" to "Red." The heroes may be veterans, but that does not mean they cannot go almost the spy game with a little more youthful abandon. AP

REVIEW

How 'Bubble Gang' keeps it fresh and funny

From page J1

"Bongabon." It tells of the horrifying experiences of two escapees (portrayed by Rissa and Dyan Aranas) after inheriting a haunted bungalow from their deceased grandfather.

Revenge from heavens for scammers's recent chat with Ebony.

What's the show's formula for success?

It doesn't have any—it's not good to rely on one. We tried it before, but people didn't appreciate it. We tried to have comments that find something new to offer the audience.

Aren't you concerned that the show is losing steed to late-night?

We prefer to Aces any creative team comes. We know that we will do good habit among or as we have stages.

Who do you wish to see on the show in the future?

I want to work with Boeing (Nic Bonta) and Dolphy, and all the comedy greats. There was also anniversary presentation where we invited the cast members of defunct gag shows like "Tropang Trumpo," "Bulong Bulusan" and "Super Laff In." Those were fun and interesting.

Do you have a say on who leaves and joins the show?

I don't, but I won't mind working with new talents. Some actors don't fit in comedy when they start working with us. They are able to show a side of themselves that viewers have not seen before. They feel shy in the beginning, frustrated, after a month or two, with very hype.

I'm part of the original cast, so is Ogie, Rendell Ramos, Antonio Aquitania, Arlene Francisco, Alex Morales and Bombine Cruz. Later, Susan Lenoda, Antonio de Rossi and Jackie Manuneta came in. The talents also used to grow and move on. Most of them stayed to focus on family life.

Do you also change actors as often as you change talents?

Yes, but writers Cesar Cortez, Chito Francisco, Alan Rosero and Jojo Cruz have always been there. They're part of the show's core.

What are you most proud about "Bubble Gang"?

I take pride in the fact that it was able to withstand the test of time.

When we were just starting, our aim was to last for five years. Now we've got ten to beat the longest running gag show, "T.O.D.A.R." It aired for 18 years. Now, I personally want to beat the record of "John en Marsha," 17 years.

What do you consider the show's most memorable episodes?

'Personally, I want to beat the record of 'John en Marsha,' 17 years'

For me, the pilot was the most memorable. All of us lacked sleep then. That was the most tiring episode we've ever made. The anniversary special that featured our members of past gag shows was also memorable. Even the people of "Champoy" joined us. Lastly, the 12th anniversary episode. It was our first attempt at producing a musical. I was tasked to write 10 to 12 songs for that episode.

MICHAEL V: The show doesn't rely on any formula for success.

Of the characters you've portrayed in the past, who is closest to your heart?

I've lost count of the characters I've played, but I have to say that Jamie Lee is the most important. He's my alter-ego. He was the best to pinoy things. I always prepared to face his interviewers. Jamie Lee went bad his own show, "Celebrity Bistro" with Lassi Manlucha.

TVS has been very aggressive lately in improving its programming. Did you get any offers to transfer?

The truth is, we all received offers but we can't leave. "Bubble Gang" is safe from the fact that we are all under contract with GMA 7, the show has already become part of our lives.

When do you keep the show still interesting after all these years?

That's when the other staff members come into the picture. If I'm not in the mood, sasabihin ako ni Ogie. I do the same for him. If both of us are not in the mood, then Mac Quiazon and the others help lift our spirits up.

Do you see yourself working on the show without Ogie?

I don't think I would last long on the show without him. I guess that's the formula—there has to be an Ogie where there's a Bitoy. We help each other out. Kapag nasa isa't isa, nasa buhay ako at wala rito.

"Bubble Gang" airs every Friday night after "Beauty Queen" on the GMA Television time slot.

E-mail mcruz@inq7.net or cruz.pd.

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MY SOUL TO TAKE IN 3D

'Paranormal 2' scares up box office

LOS ANGELES—"Paranormal Activity 2" roared out on top at the box office this weekend, pulling in $40.7 million with its pre-Halloween horror story of ghosts caught on sunny turfs.

The Paramount sequel was enough to scare off comedy stars Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, which dropped to number two with $21.3 million in ticket sales, according to final weekend figures from box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Spy thriller "Salt" with Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Liev Schreiber took in $11 million, moving down a notch in the weekend rankings in third place.

"Jonah Hex," Clint Eastwood's downselling drama about three men touched by death, opened in wide release, sewing $11 million, which put the Matt Josten movie fourth place.

In overtook "The Social Network," the story of the founding of Facebook, which came in fifth with $7.3 million in box office receipts during its third weekend in theaters. AFP

SHANG CINEPLEX

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2 LIFE AS WE KNOW IT
THE SOCIAL NETWORK
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PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2

Icons and scions

VIEWFINDER

Amador C. Kuzon

ICONS become icons not just because of talent and charisma, but also due to the decades they put in to consistently hone their 'craft' (if he most overused word in the biz these days).

On the other hand, show biz 'icons' seem automatically bestow from their famous parents or sister's hard-earned reputation and clout—perhaps, that's why many second-generation stars end up failing to match or even come close to their parents' or grandparents' stellar.

Take Ramon Revilla Jr. He was a popular action superstar in his prime and later became an even more popular senior citizen action hero.

Happily his son and actor, Bong Revilla, also did well when he launched his own acting career, and has even been able to parlay his popularity (like his dad) for a veritable successful alternative career on national politics.

Less than happily, his son, Jolo, has failed to match that success with his own, third generational gambit, proof that stellar clout isn't transferable—and it definitely isn't forever.

What's wrong, Jolo?

What has gone wrong or failed to measure in Jolo's case? For one thing, his looks, "pug-thuglogical hell" and charisma are less than compelling. He may also need some growing up to do, having been thrust into the public's consciousness as a teenage child.

What about talent? Having caught some of Jolo's portrayals, we can note that they have been merely serviceable—not bad, but not good, either, because he hasn't "invested" them with his own unique character and insights.

Perhaps he doesn't have much of that to share? If so, he's best advised to take all sorts of workshops to fill in the blanks.

Beyond that, he should also ask himself the key question if he's in show biz because he loves it, or just because it's been a family "business" for decades.

If he's interested in really love it, then there's hope—and all those "fill in the blanks" workshops and other gambits could eventually be up his career and turn it around.

If, however, it's just something nice and profitable to do, Jolo had better fine up other career prospects that can serve him in better stead for the long term. End-of-career consideration: blow-dryer parlors, please.

There are a lot of them, actually. To name just one other show biz family, the progeny of Eddie Mesa and Rosemarie Sarli, the Eigenmanns, have carved/found/ever-have their share in the entertainment world.

They've done better than most, but they could do even better if they attend to some concerns and remedy them before they become dead levelers.

Her teammate, Yeoff Eigenmann can work harder on her comedic articulation. And whenever sister Arci Eigenmann started out well on "Agua Bendita," but she's dipped into the rut of predictable, "fan-friendly" performances.

She needs to fight against local TV's tendency to "homogenize" its new talents, and figure out her own, unique essence as a TV film thespian.

THREE GENERATIONS. Action-flick adventurer Ivere Ramon Revilla (top), actor-politician Bong Revilla (above) and struggling actor Jolo Revilla

Tonight: Boy Katindig at Hard Rock Cafe

RESPECTED jazz keyboardist Boy Katindig performs tonight at Hard Rock Cafe Makati. Known mainly for former vocalist Marinel Integrated and an all-male R&B band, Mr. Teuf.

A veteran performer, recording artist and this year's Awit Awards Hall of Fame recipient, Katindig debuts his close harmony sound abroad and renewing old ties in the country.

Battle of the bands

"The Clash of the Chimpanzee Battle of the Bands" (8 p.m. tonight, 8 p.m. at the Tavern and Grille parking area, Festival Supermall, Alabang Razorback performs as special guest.

Gin Blossoms at the Big Dome

After a lengthy hiatus, American alternative rock group Gin Blossoms has reunited and plays on Nov. 10 at the Resorts Coliseum and Nov. 23 at Cebu Waterfront Hotel.

Also featured are Australian rock band Airbourne. D. play lead guitar Gunky Chin, Gloc-9, Dr. Lara and 8Cyclemind.

BDP Recindy

Gin Blossoms achieved fame in the 1990s music with the hits "Til I Hear it from You," "Hey Jealousy," "As Long As It Matters," "Found Out About You," "Hollow Wet Dream," among others.

Call 911.3333.

Pinay falls rock legends

The concert "Tegat: The Legends Of Diane Will Rock," at Go Hotel Inc. 1 at the Araneta Coliseum, stars Pepe Smith, Mike Hanopol and Willy Gonzales of the Juan de la Cruz Band, Sampaguita, Pioneers, Lolita Carbon, Heber Bartolome, Tony Gonzales and Noel Cabangon.

GIN Blossoms

ENTERTAINMENT

Who's afraid of Oliver Stone?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rahwin Y. Anjwales

LOS ANGELES—In our estimation one quotable quote from stars last Sunday, we wrote about Zhia Ladlad's getting into "nonsense" from his "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" director Oliver Stone, after the actor expressed nervousness before filming began. "Don't worry, Sam Trains wasn't an actor when I first worked with him either."

Shia told us that declined to be re-identified in a recent interview in New York. After Shia, we called to Josh Brolin who quizzed what we told him about the anecdote. The actor, who co-stars with Shia and Michael Douglas in "Money Never Sleeps," said: "I love that Oliver brought up Tom Cruise because I know that when Tom was doing 'Born on the Fourth of July,' Oliver suggested to him that he get an epidural to feel what it's like to be paralyzed."

Challenging demands

The colorful Oliver, who has won several Oscar and Golden Globe Awards ("Platoon," "Born on the Fourth...," "Midnight Express") is known for making challenging demands on his actors, but the results are acclaimed performances.

Josh learned that Shia also shared Oliver's other quotable quote in the young actor ("I wrote 'Fearless. Go F**k yourself!'"). Josh reminded: "I love that story. I got to sit back and kind of smile." Josh was on the set and heard that line himself. Sporting a beard that he said his wife, actress Diane Lodd, likes, the actor looked mischievous and clicked interesting anecdotes, too.

Josh, who portrayed former US President George W. Bush in Oliver's "W," said: "I didn't have a 'F**k you!' moment with Oliver. There was only one instance—in the scene in 'W' where my character is drunk and he's driving with his brother like goes through the Irish oasis and he ends up in front of his parents' house. It was the most chaotic scene in the movie. Jeanne Cavanaugh [who plays the older Bush] was so out of sorts. He was like, 'What is Oliver doing?' I said, 'A drone's motive. Just go with it.' I didn't know either so I couldn't explain it."

The Oscar nominated actor for "Milk," also

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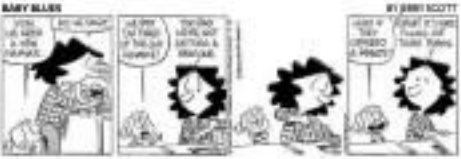

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BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be very candid with someone close to a family member today. You could get overlooked for a promotion or raise at work because you are inadvertently cause that bigwig's company's economy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You feel enthusiastic and confident about your abilities today. However, your project could prove a challenge. Today interruptions could make things go south in a hurry. Stick closely to your work and avoid socializing.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) There is a great day for business and connections. Your moneymaking ideas are excellent, a financial endeavor is for optimistic. Nevertheless, guard your interests and personal information against fraud or crime.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You feel motivated and ready to take on the world today. Perhaps you're excited about something that's going to happen. Be suspicious if nothing is on the up.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You feel excited today. Be careful that you don't overestimate things. Feelings of exhilaration may cause you to overlook the pitfalls of such overconfidence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) If you're in any kind of romantic tension surrounding a problem, a date or a big entertainment event, you're in for a wonderful time. Your charm is at its peak. Your luck could be delayed or cancelled. Or you might even lose a valuable item.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't expect new counselling and planning about you today. Activity "chaos" I mean those people outside are greatly influenced by your love. Engagement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Deep down, might be tempted. Attend to cancelled today. Only do what's right. Be sure to be extravagant. Be careful with those around.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make an assumption when dealing with others about relationships. Important matters are surfacing. Pay close attention to your gentle spirit around. Things could subtle go awry! You might even feel extra-sensitive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Friends and partners are full of surprises today. You should be aware this. Stress you're set to face requires a solution! Don't always that I **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Communication and deals today perhaps due to their shortages, power outages, computer crashes or canceled appointments. Just allow yourself plenty of time to accomplish this.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Routine hitches might make your day! Basically, this is a fun-loving day. Relaxed. It can be a perfect time for children's events (as) Be vigilant.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

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2	3	9	8	1	5	4	6	7
8	1	3	6	7	2	9	4	5
4	9	6	5	8	1	3	7	2
5	2	7	4	3	9	6	8	1
3	8	2	7	5	6	9	1	4
9	6	1	2	4	8	7	5	3
7	5	4	1	9	3	8	2	6

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5						1		
				7	4		8	
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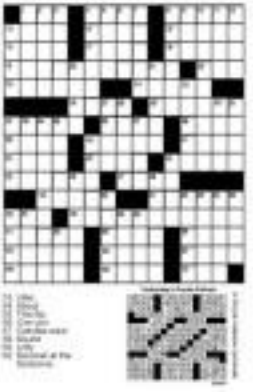

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Kwiksand	Nov 06, 2010, 04:00 pm	World Trade Center
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Pagsanibo at Pagsuri	Nov 19, 2010, 07:30 pm	5th Floor St. Francis Square, Mandaluyong

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Who's afraid of Oliver Stone?

From page 83

unrecordable to the Coen brothers' "No Country for Old Men," continued. "But I went to back at the monitor ... I just wanted to make sure that I was in the framework of what we've decided to do. So Oliver had to wait for me while I did that. He got really pissed and we had a moment. It was very bulldogs growling at each other, thinking what's going on here first. Then we thought it was going to be really bloody if we do that. So it was on to the next scene."

Josh claimed that it has been a smooth working with the iconoconversial filmmaker since that incident. With his eyes squinting, Jenna furrowed in a perfect imitation of Oliver, Josh explained how the filmmaker challenges him: "He scrutinizes and goes, 'Hey.' He always looks like he can't see anything and he's confused. He says, 'How are you feeling today?' I go, 'I'm feeling great!' He goes, 'Really, you sure you're not sick?' I'm not sick. Why?' Then he walks away. I realized that's his way of saying, 'It's time to ask it up. You're getting too smooth. You're not asking us deeply as you can.'"

> 'With Oliver, you must be willing to be humiliated'

Body language

Aside from those nuances, Josh said that he and Oliver now have a shorthand way of communicating: "It was more about body language, you know. We started to read body language and all that."

He cited a memorable example: "There's a scene in 'Wall Street' where I go on a stage, take a painting and tear it through the chest. We finished that scene and Oliver says, 'I think we got it. That's great.' The lights and cameras started being taken away. I look at Oliver and he looked at me. He goes, 'Okay, bring every thing back.' We did one more take where I destroyed the painting, cried—the whole thing. So body had my idea what I was going to do. I myself didn't know what I was going to do."

"I think after the crying and destroying the painting, I put part of the painting in my mouth which was probably an unhealthy. Oliver knew that kind of stuff, but we couldn't use it. It was probably way too much. But it's all about the willingness to go to any lengths in order to get the performance. He and Michael (Douglas) have struggled sometimes. Some people don't like to be prodded. I like to be prodded."

Adoring Oliver

Josh admitted that his adoring Oliver. "I don't know what it is with me. I have to now look to working with these filmmakers. Maybe it's just that they don't frighten me. Maybe they're bright enough to see. But I seem to have a really great working relationship with them. But if it is, with people like Oliver, Ridley Scott or the Coen brothers, you must be willing to be absolutely humiliated because that's part of your job. The directors are in charge and above the lead acting from the good acting and put it together."

Josh shared an amusing story about 99-year-old actor Eli Wallach, whom he adores as well. The renown thespian, regardless with a presence on "Mystery Movies ..." Josh recounted. "We have a scene that called for me to make a speech. I will go around a table and then I sit down. I'll have to say one line but they gave him a three-leaf and on a prop reveals him look older. He doesn't need a cheat, old. He couldn't hear anything because he had the hearing aid on.

"I did the speech and then I sat next to Eli. There was a long pause and Oliver went, 'Cut!' Oliver said to Eli, 'Hey man, who do I owe to get your line?' He went, 'What? I can't hear anything with this thing in my ears!' So I go, 'Eli, right, I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll do the speech. When I sit down, I'll tap your foot with my foot. That's when you say your line.' So I do the speech and then I sit down. I tap Eli's foot and he goes, 'What???'

"Eli has done 126 movies," Josh said, amazed at the veteran actor's body of work. "He is phenomenal. He has this energy that is unparalleled. And he has stories. It's just crazy after stories—Jolie and Marilyn Monroe, Cary Grant and Marilyn Monroe. Others than Oliver doing a role a one with Michael, talking with Eli was what motivated me throughout the film. He's getting an honorary Oscar. It's well-deserved."

On how he was at 24, Shia's age now, the son of actor James Shelton said, "Oh, not (bad per) regulars. I was all over the place but then again, I had a family. At 24, I had a child. I had already been married and divorced. I was having another child with my ex-wife. It was not planned," He admitted, to laughter. "Yeah, I was confused."

Josh said Shia has a completely different kind of pressure than he did. "Mine was putting food on the table. Shia's is carrying those films. It's not just him coming out of the gate and doing a great role. It's people saying, 'Okay, can the Transformers' guy do fun thing at the box office?' He's challenging with it every mold."

"Megan Fox is another one. I've gotten so killed for saying anything about Megan, which is fine. The amount of attention those people get—they're fully burned everywhere."

Intermeshed by women—wife Elaine, plus a daughter and a stepdaughter—Josh, who is the stepson of Barbra Streisand, declared, "I tend to get very loosed women because I find them stronger. I enjoy that."

> 'It's all about the willingness to go to any lengths'

Josh's mother

He shared memories of his mother, Jane Agee Bridges, who died in an accident in 1995. "She was very special," he said. "She was from Texas. She sounded like a much drawn, with a deep voice. She herbivorized every single person she knew in 200 countries. She'd have all their numbers.

Josh volunteered how his mother, then an un-unknown casting director for the "Minimal" TV series, met his dad when he appeared as a guest on the show. "He's handsome, gave her the eye," said. "I don't blame her. He had just broken up with somebody else. They were on their second. Scorpios, a huge cultural drink. They were chasing. Their eye meets locked at my dad and said, 'Well?' My dad was like, 'Yeah.' She goes, 'Well, are we going to get married or what?' So my parents got married 33 days after they met. They were together for 20 years.

"She was an animal activist," he added. "I grew up with a lot of wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, lobsters and all that. She would take animals away from people who had illegally taken them out of the wild. She had the people jailed and we weren't under the animals back to health. Then my father and I would release the animals if they had not been defanged or declawed. If they had been, we'd find a zoo for them."

Josh revealed that he has more on his body from encounters with some of the animals he cared for. He said, "I was 7 or 8 years old and I was cleaning the cages of wolves." He paused and then cracked, "That's why I like working with Oliver. It's probably why those filmmakers don't scare me."

New movie

Of Shia, whom he married in late 2004, he said, "She said I like getting in a car, taking off, saying to Zoey Jan and staying in Winslow, Arizona, or wherever. That's where we're most comfortable. It's not an affectation. Even though she's from New York, we spend a lot of time in Georgia. It's a highly laid thing."

Looking ahead, he expressed excitement about helping another Coen brothers movie, a retelling of John Wayne's "True Grit."

He revealed: "I've manipulated the Coens to allow me to watch them edit a few movies, three of 'no Reading,' a part of 'No Country for Old Men,' and 'A Serious Man.' I've been watching them edit 'True Grit' and it's one of the most beautiful films I've seen, I can say. It's stunning, rather it's cinematographer (Roger Deakins) has done."

Also on the horizon is "Men in Black III." Get this—he plays a young version of Tommy Lee Jones' iconic character.

E-mail the columnist at mugabe_1586@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT Living Star
Editor Bonnie C. Valarde
E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Kapamilya teen star enjoys being a girl, but she also packs a mean wallop

Wardrobe fit for an Empress

By Raquel San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jon Gosa Pascual

FROM all angles, Kapamilya teen star Empress Schuck looks dainty and delicate.

True to form, she admits that she enjoys dressing up and being a girl.

Case in point: Her favorite color is pink, her bedroom is painted the same shade, and her closets are overflowing with glittery trinkets and other cute stuff.

Still, Empress, who made a name for herself as the tiniest headbanger of the ABS-CBN afternoon soap "Rosalka," packs a metal wallop, too.

Amid the crystal baubles, Bonnie hair and sequined purses is a pair of heavy gloves in rubber.

The actress, who turns 20 next year, regularly goes boxing in the gym dedicated to her late father, Empress has made fine use of her martial-skills in some projects.

Another unlikely collection: Guitars. She says she started it to relax.

Looking at her closet, it's easy to see that Empress, who models for Dby Natural White, Bantayba Shoreline cosmetics, Boutique and Modess, is a typical tween babe.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Pink Coach, a present from manager Becky Aguila, is a fave.

BLACK Chanel is from friend Joy Gosa.

CLOSETFUL of casuals for Empress who goes for stylish simplicity like this red Mango dress in her hands.

TURN OVER L2

Bags

She has started a collection of bags: pink Coach, black Chanel, yellow Louis Vuitton.

Most of the totes are gifts from friends. "The Chanel is a present from [incumbent sheet creator] Joy Gosa. The Coach and Louis Vuitton are from my manager Tita Becky [Aguila]."

Her favorite is the pink Coach, of course.

"It's sure used it's big. I use just a lot of things in it," she says. "It's not too summy, but at the same time it's not too girly. It's just right for my age. It suits my personality perfectly."

The silver and gilded purses were bought by her mom. "I use them for awards shows and other formal occasions."

Hats, caps

While beloved souvenir hats are presents from Joy too.

"I tend to a hat at her mom once and she said it looked good on me," Empress recalls. "She gave me almost a dozen hats."

But the most cherished headgear in her closet is a simple gray baseball cap that's embroidered with her name.

"My mom had that cap made," she says.

Headbands, belts

"It's a job requirement," she explains why she keeps lots of big belts, head bands and other accessories in her closet.

"I like mixing and matching, and belts jazz up my outfits," she says.

She wears headbands to keep her long tresses away from her face. "Hassle to when that happens," she says.

Fortunately, today's headbands come in various styles.

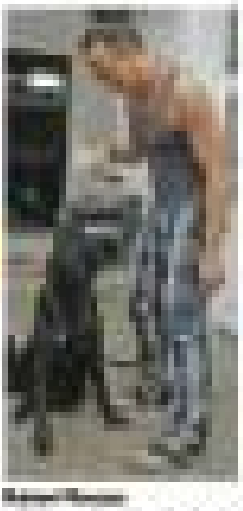
"Most of my headbands are from Joy for Accessorize, too," she says.

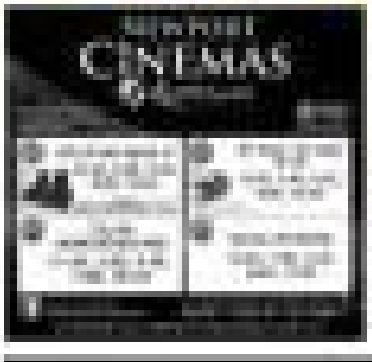
Shoes

She has amassed all sorts of footwear.

Sneakers sponsor Converse sends them to her patio a month, she relates.

MEGAMIND
3D

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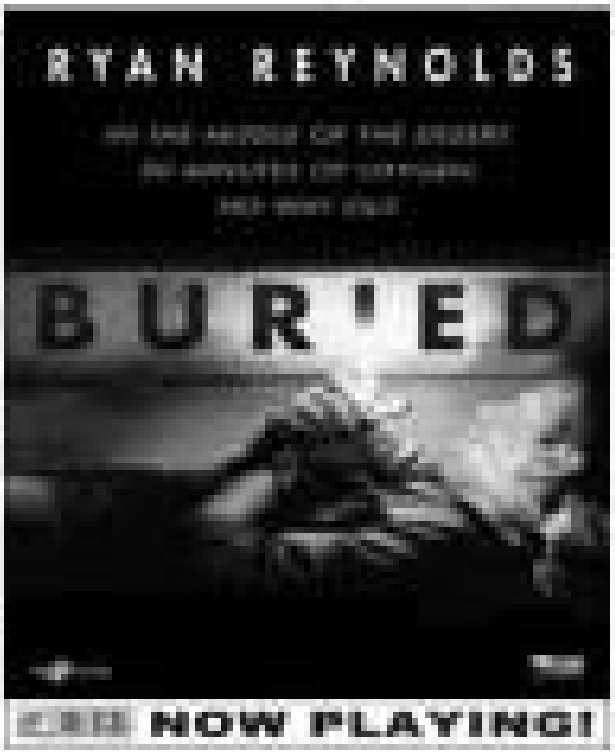
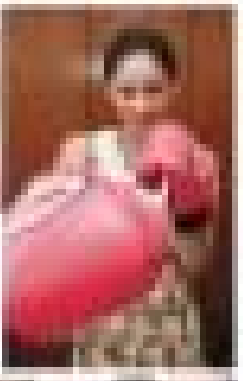
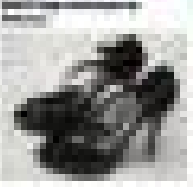

RYAN REYNOLDS
BUR'ED
NOW PLAYING!

Quiet time, a little pampering



ardrobe fit for an Empress



TOWERING FLAVORS OF LUNCH

Traditional Tower

Asian Gusto Tower

Italianni's

Cal Carrie's EsAc MASTERS SCHOOL for MODELS

PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK

SPRING SUMMER 2011

Cyber-shot VAIO

OCTOBER 26 - 31, 2010

OFFICIAL VENUE SMX WALK OF ASIA

26 TUE

5:00 PM • SMX HALL 2 — POND'S presents GOLD
DENNIS LUSTICO • JC BUENCIA • JUN ESCARIO • RAJO LAUREL

5:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM. 4 — KIDS' FASHION by SM DEPARTMENT STORE

27 WED

5:00 PM • MOA MAIN ATRIUM — AXE presents MENSWEAR Collection
ANTHONY NOCOM • BANG PINEDA • FREDERICK POLICARPIO • JESSON CAPUCHINO • M BARRETTO • NICO AGUSTIN
ODELON SIMPAO • RAMON FAVILA • RICKY ABAD • SIMON ARIEL VASQUEZ • ULYSSES KING

7:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM. 4 — SM DEPARTMENT STORE

9:00 PM • SMX HALL 2 — PAPERDOLLS & WHARTON

28 THU

5:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RMS. 2 & 3 — IPANEMA presents RESORT WEAR Collection
ANTHONY NOCOM • RAMON FAVILA • RICKY ABAD • SIMON ARIEL VASQUEZ

6:00 PM • MOA MAIN ATRIUM — FREEGO

7:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM. 4 — PREMIERE A Collection
LYLE IBAÑEZ • NOEL CRISOSTOMO • RAOUL RAMIREZ • RONALDO ARNALDO

9:00 PM • SMX HALL 2 — LEVI'S

29 FRI

5:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RMS. 2 & 3 — SONY CYBERSHOT presents LUXE WEAR Collection
EDWIN LIY • JIMO PERALOSA • JOHN GUARINES • JORTIS MARTINEZ • JULIUS TAPEDI • KAT CORPUS
MARICAR ROSMAYSIE • MELVIN LACHICA • NOLIE VIBUZA • RICHARD PAPA • ROEL ROSAL • ROLAND LIRIO • TINA DAVAC

5:00 PM • MOA MAIN ATRIUM — RUSTY LOPEZ

7:00 PM • SMX HALL 2 — FOLDED & HUNG

9:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM. 4 — OXYGEN

30 SAT

2:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RMS. 2 & 3 — READY TO WEAR Collection sponsored by SAN MARINO Tuna Pasta
ANNA LEAH SALVADOR • ARNEL ZULUETA • DAVE OCAMPO • GRACE ONG • JAN LABALA • RICA SANTAMARIA
PENCIL DESTIVA • RYAN MISA • RICHIE RONDOC

4:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM. 4 — JUN JUN CAMSE + LITO PEREZ

5:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RMS. 2 & 3 — WHISPER presents PREMIERE B Collection
ALOSA CECILIA • EMILY SY • JOYCE PILARSKY • LIZANNE CUA

6:30 PM • MOA MAIN ATRIUM — LEE

7:00 PM • SMX HALL 2 — PENSHOPPE

8:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RMS. 2 & 3 — SONY VAIO presents
DESIGN FUSION
BO PAGCOR • DIMPLE LIM • DON PROTACIO • JOT LOSA • RUSSELL VILLAFUERTE
VISIONS and TRENDS
ANTHONY CESAR RAMIREZ • DOAN DELAVEGA • ENRICO CAMADO • HERBERT CUSTODIO
HERMIT TESORO • OZ GO • XERXAN ORTEGA

31 SUN

1:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM. 4 — GRAND ALLURE
ALBERT ANDRADA • BANDOOX FLORES • BENJAY MANUEL • CHRISTIAN NARVADEZ • GERWIN QUA
JUNE PUGAT • RUBEN SANTOS • WILJAY FLORESCA

2:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RMS. 2 & 3 — CHRIS DIAZ • JEROME SALAYA ANG

4:00 PM • SMX FUNCTION RM. 4 — GERRY KATIGBAK • MARLON RIVERA • MICHELLE LIM

5:30 PM • SMX FUNCTION RMS. 2 & 3 — PREMIERE C Collection
ARNOLD GALANG • JEFFREY ROGADOR • JOEL ESCOBER • YAKO REYES • ESAC, Raoul Ramirez • Lyle Ibañez & AndreE

6:30 PM • MOA MAIN ATRIUM — FORD MODELS' SUPERMODEL of the WORLD PHILIPPINES 2010

7:30 PM • SMX HALL 2 — CESAR GAUPO

One IN FASHION

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